

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

January 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 1/00 Vol. 43, No. 1

Making Jehovah's Name Known in All the Earth

¹ When Jesus commissioned his disciples to be witnesses "to the most distant part of the earth," he had already set the example for them to follow. (Acts 1:8) Whenever and wherever he found people, he talked about God's purpose for humankind. In imitation of Jesus, the faithful slave class is using a great variety of ways to make Jehovah's name "known in all the earth."—Isa. 12:4, 5.

² **What Was Done in Former Days:** In years gone by, sermons were published in newspapers; the "Photo-Drama of Creation" was produced and shown to millions; sound cars were used; and extensive use was made of the phonograph and, for a

time, radio—all to preach the good news. Of course, primary emphasis has always been placed on making personal contact with people so that the interest found can be cultivated. Consequently, the house-to-house ministry has proved to be a very effective means of making Jehovah's name known everywhere.—Acts 5:42.

³ **What Is Being Done in Our Day:** With changing times the world is moving at a hectic pace, and in many places people are seldom found at home. Few are inclined to spend time reading and meditating on spiritual things. We must therefore adapt our ministry accordingly.

In addition to continually covering the territory from house to house, we have been encouraged to go where the people are and to be "always ready" to make a defense for the hope within us. (1 Pet. 3:15) This means endeavoring to preach to workmates, to schoolmates, to people on the street and in the park or parking lot, from store to store, and anywhere else that people may be found. Having Jehovah's backing, our efforts meet with good success. Are you having a share in reaching people wherever they are?

⁴ May we individually leave no stone unturned when it comes to making Jehovah's name known in our territory. We can find great satisfaction in fully accomplishing our ministry, as we look to Jehovah to draw righthearted ones.—John 6:44.

Will You Be There?

¹ A longtime Witness once said: "If you miss the first day of the convention, why, you have just missed too much!" Why did he feel that way? Because the first day is the beginning of a rich spiritual banquet that Jehovah's organization has prepared for us. (Isa. 25:6) Our being there right from the start shows that we agree with the psalmist's sentiments: "I rejoiced when they were saying to me: 'To the house of Jehovah let us go.'"—Ps. 122:1.

² Last year at some of the "God's Prophetic Word" District Conventions, however, the attendance on Friday was substantially less than on Saturday and Sunday. This means that a large percentage of our broth-

ers lost out on hearing convention parts that presented vital information about the prophetic word. They also forfeited delightful association with fellow believers.

³ **Do Not Let Secular Work Interfere:** Concern about jeopardizing one's employment may be the reason why some did not attend on Friday. However, many Witnesses have found that their employers are willing to cooperate with them in this matter if they ask for time off well in advance. One employer was so impressed by a pioneer sister's firm determination to attend all congregation meetings and assemblies that he spent an entire day at her convention!

⁴ You should not assume that

what should we do?
your employer is not disposed to grant you time off, nor should you conclude that missing a day of the convention will not matter. With heartfelt conviction, prepare to show your employer tactfully from the Scriptures why attending the convention is an important part of your worship. (Heb. 10:24, 25) Then put your full confidence in Jehovah's promises, recognizing that whatever you require materially will be provided if you keep spiritual needs foremost in your life.—Matt. 6:33; Heb. 13:5, 6.

⁵ The key factor is appreciation for "the more important things." (Phil. 1:10, 11; Ps. 27:4) This moves us to make plans to benefit fully from this vital provision from Jehovah. Start making your definite plans now, and be determined that you will be there all three days!

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting January 10

Song 107

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

15 min: "Making Jehovah's Name Known in All the Earth." Question-and-answer discussion. Include comments on informal witnessing from *Our Ministry* book, pages 93-4.

20 min: Making a Legal Choice for Nonblood Management of Health Care. (Acts 15:28, 29) Talk by a qualified elder, based on question-and-answer guide that accompanies the Society's health-care durable power of attorney, or proxy, form and the sheet entitled "Information About the Society's Health-Care Durable Power of Attorney (DPA) Forms," both dated January 1997. Following this meeting, baptized Witnesses may obtain a new Advance Medical Directive/Release card, and those with unbaptized minor children may receive an Identity Card for each child. These cards are not to be filled out tonight. They should be filled out carefully at home but NOT signed. Signing, witnessing, and dating of all cards will be done after the next Congregation Book Study, with assistance where necessary from the book study conductor. Before signing, be sure that the cards are filled out completely. Those signing as witnesses should actually see the cardholder sign the document. By adapting language from this card to their own circumstances and convictions, unbaptized publishers may write out their own directive to use for themselves and their children. The durable power of attorney, or proxy, form has been prepared by the Society and is a more comprehensive health-care document that provides primary legal protection. Witnesses who have not already filled out this form and who wish to do so can obtain a copy from the congregation secretary. (If a publisher has moved to another state, he would need to execute a new form in order for it to be effective in that state.) Additionally, if a durable power of attorney, or proxy, form has been executed, you should write on the front of the Advance Medi-

cal Directive/Release card, preferably in your own hand: "I have also executed a health-care power of attorney." Book study conductors should be sure that all assigned to their group have the assistance they desire to fill out the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and durable power of attorney, or proxy, form. For the best possible legal protection, *both* documents should be filled out. Song 155 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 17

Song 12

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Use Tracts to Start Conversations." Review any four tracts commonly used in the territory. Pose a question that is answered in each tract. Invite audience to suggest how the question could be used to start a conversation and possibly lead into a Bible study. Demonstrate how this might be done with two of the tracts. Song 57 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 24

Song 110

10 min: Local announcements and field service experiences.

15 min: "Give Consideration to Jehovah's Word *Every Day*!" Talk and audience discussion. Encourage everyone to make good use of *Examining the Scriptures Daily*—2000. Include comments from the foreword, pages 3-4. Invite publishers to relate how they make a special effort to consider the text and comments each day.

20 min: "Will You Be There?" Talk and experiences, conducted by an elder. Large gatherings have played a major role in strengthening God's people from Bible times to our day. (See *Proclaimers* book, page 254, paragraphs 1-3, and *Insight*, Volume 1, page 821, paragraph 5.) Encourage all to start making preparations now to attend all three days of this year's district convention. Invite audience to relate experiences showing that their diligent efforts to be present in the past were rewarded spiritually. Song 157 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 31

Song 16

12 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for January. Mention the literature offer for February: *Family Happiness* book. Demonstrate how the three questions in the box on page 12 of the book can be used as a basis for engaging someone in conversation.

15 min: The Answer to a Question About 'Marking.' Talk by an elder, based on July 15, 1999, *Watchtower*, pages 29-31.

18 min: How to Help Others Identify the True Religion. Discussion between a qualified ministerial servant and two or three capable publishers about how people may be impressed by Jehovah's Witnesses but do not understand clearly the difference between other religions and ours. Review the ten points covered on page 20 of the May 8, 1995, *Awake!* Explain how knowing these factors can help a sincere person see both the distinction between true and false worship and the need to learn from Jehovah's people and associate with us. Song 60 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 7

Song 113

8 min: Local announcements.

17 min: Review *Daniel's Prophecy* Book. Talk and audience discussion. Review highlights of the new book: striking chapter titles, vivid illustrations, boxes with probing questions at the end of each discussion, maps and charts that clarify details. Consider the encouraging explanation of how Michael will "stand up" in a special way (pages 288-90). Discuss the importance of our enduring as teachers of God's Word (pages 311-12). All of us should read the book carefully and urge interested ones to do the same.

20 min: They Made a Wise Choice. Talk based on October 15, 1997, *Watchtower*, pages 19-21, paragraphs 3-16. Relate expressions of pioneers, showing why they feel that their lives have been spent in the most rewarding, beneficial way. Encourage all in attendance to evaluate their own prospects for pioneering. Song 182 and concluding prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ **Literature offer for January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1986 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that do not have a supply of such books may offer *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* or *You Can Live Forever in Paradise on Earth*. **February:** *The Secret of Family Happiness*. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. **April:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for interested people, and endeavor to start home Bible studies.

■ All baptized publishers present at the Service Meeting the week of January 10 may obtain the Advance Medical Directive/Release card and the Identity Card for their children.

■ Starting in February, and no later than March 5, the new public talk for circuit overseers will be "The Real Armageddon—Why? When?"

■ Congregations should make con-

venient arrangements to celebrate the Memorial this year on Wednesday, April 19, after sundown. Although the talk may start earlier, the passing of the Memorial emblems *should not begin until after sundown*. Check with local sources to determine when sundown occurs in your area. Although it is desirable for each congregation to hold its own Memorial celebration, this may not always be possible. Where a number of congregations normally use the same Kingdom Hall, perhaps one or more congregations can obtain the use of another facility for that evening. Where possible, we would suggest a minimum of 40 minutes between programs so that all may benefit fully from the occasion, allowing time to greet visitors and encourage newly interested ones. Consideration should also be given to traffic conditions and parking, including the dropping off and picking up of passengers. The body of elders should decide what arrangements would be best locally.

■ The special public talk for the

2000 Memorial season will be given on Sunday, April 16. The subject of the talk will be "Why Mankind Needs a Ransom." An outline will be provided. Those congregations having the visit of the circuit overseer, a circuit assembly, or a special assembly day that weekend will have the special talk the following week. No congregation should have the special talk before April 16, 2000.

OCTOBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl.St.
Sp'l Pios.	140	121.2	105.5	51.4	4.1
Pios.	94,064	67.4	51.4	21.1	1.6
Aux. Pios.	30,722	50.4	42.2	13.4	0.8
Pubs.	808,705	9.4	8.7	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	933,631			Baptized: 2,221	

This month brought a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 94,064 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 3,109, or more than 3 percent over the previous peak of 90,955 in September 1999.

Give Consideration to Jehovah's Word Every Day!

¹ Each day presents new challenges to your faith. Perhaps a worldly acquaintance keeps pressuring you to go out on a date. Your teacher wants you to pursue a secular career, or your employer wants you to work longer hours. Your physical health may be declining. Although such trials may confront you at any time, you are not alone. Jehovah is ready to give you the wisdom needed to cope with them. Considering the Bible text and comments in *Examining the Scriptures* is one means by which you can take in Jehovah's Word on a regular basis. Do you take advantage of this provision?

² **Help Is Available:** Isaiah 30:20 describes Jehovah as the

"Grand Instructor" to whom God's people can look for help. He supplies you with just what you need to face challenges to your faith. How? The next verse explains: "Your own ears will hear a word behind you saying: 'This is the way. Walk in it.'" Today, Jehovah sends out his "word" through the Scriptures and the publications of 'the faithful slave.' (Matt. 24: 45) There is a wealth of wisdom in past *Watchtower* articles alone, touching on virtually every aspect of Christian living. Reviewing the ones that are quoted in *Examining the Scriptures* helps you build a storehouse of knowledge that is invaluable in dealing with trials of all sorts.—Isa. 48:17.

³ **Make Room for It:** Even

though mornings were a busy time, one mother made it a point to read and discuss the text and comments with her son while he ate breakfast. These words along with prayer were the last words that he heard each morning before leaving for school. They fortified him to resist sexual advances, to take an uncompromising stand in the face of nationalism, and to give a courageous witness to students and teachers alike. Although he was the only Witness at school, he never felt alone.

⁴ Look to Jehovah and his Word for direction and guidance. If you do so, he will be real to you, like a trusted friend. Turn to him *every day!* Along with millions of others the world over who daily consult God's Word, may you find that your eyes become "eyes seeing your Grand Instructor."

Use Tracts to Start Conversations

¹ Would you not agree that giving an effective witness depends largely on your taking the initiative to start conversations? The challenge is to say something that captures the person's interest and gets him involved. But how can this be done effectively?

² Many publishers have found that with a few well-chosen words, offering one of our Bible-based tracts can start conversations. The titles are appealing, and the illustrations are colorful and eye-catching. A tract does not overwhelm a person, giving the impression that there is a lot of information to read. Still, the concise messages in tracts are absorbing and can be used to lead into a Bible study.

³ This is how one Witness personally felt: "In this hurry-up world, people often do not want to take much time to read, but the tracts are just long enough to give an important message but not so long as to turn people away before they even look at it. I read many of the tracts, and I eventually learned the truth." Never underestimate the power of God's Word as explained in these brief, printed messages.—Heb. 4:12.

⁴ Four Easy Steps: Many have enjoyed success by using a simple approach. (1) Show a person a few of the tracts and ask him which one would be of interest to him. (2) After the person chooses one, ask a well-prepared question that highlights a main point in the tract. (3) In answer to the question, read an appropriate paragraph or scripture from the

tract. (4) If you get a favorable response, continue discussing the contents of the tract or refer to a lesson in the *Require* brochure or a chapter in the *Knowledge* book that provides further comments. In this way you may be able to lead right into a Bible study. The following suggestions will help you prepare what to say using four of the tracts.

⁵ *The title of the tract "Who Really Rules the World?" might be posed as a question.*

■ If in answer to it the person with whom you are talking says "God" or "I don't know," read the opening two sentences on page 2 and the first paragraph on page 3. Highlight 1 John 5:19 and Revelation 12:9. Whether or not the person doubts the existence of Satan the Devil or acknowledges his hold on the world, you can pursue the line of reasoning found under the subheading "A Clue From World Conditions" to continue the conversation. If interest is shown, offer to explain where the Devil came from, using the points on pages 3 and 4 of the tract.

⁶ *The tract "What Hope for Dead Loved Ones?" may arouse immediate interest. You might initiate a conversation by asking:*

■ "Do you think we will ever see our dead loved ones again?" After the person responds, point to the second paragraph on page 4 of the tract and read John 5:28, 29. Then explain that it helps to understand the information under the first subheading in the tract. Offer to discuss it together.

⁷ *The "Enjoy Family Life" tract has universal appeal for families. Using it, you could say:*

■ "You would probably agree that the family is under attack today. What do you think can be done to strengthen family ties?" After the person responds, direct his attention to the points in the first paragraph on page 6. Pick one of the scriptures quoted on pages 4 and 5 of the tract, and explain what it means. Then offer a free home Bible study.

⁸ *The tract "Why You Can Trust the Bible" might be used with this presentation:*

■ "Most people have heard the story of Cain and Abel, which is found in the first book of the Bible. The account in Genesis also refers to Cain's wife. Have you ever wondered where she came from?" Use the last paragraph on page 2 of the tract to give the answer. Explain that the tract also discusses the Bible's important comments about what our future holds. Beginning with the third paragraph on page 5, proceed with the discussion, using the supporting scriptures.

⁹ Distributing Bible tracts is a time-tested, effective means of presenting the good news. Because they are easy to carry wherever you go, you can use them effectively in your door-to-door activity and when witnessing informally. Tracts play an important role in fulfilling our ministry. Be sure to carry a variety, and use them liberally to start conversations.—Col. 4:17.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

February 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 2/00 Vol. 43, No. 2

“Preach the Word . . . Urgently”

¹ If you receive something marked “URGENT,” how do you view it? The word “urgent” means “calling for immediate attention.” With good reason, the apostle Paul instructed Christians to “preach the word . . . urgently.” (2 Tim. 4:2) Do you respond by giving this work your immediate attention?

² It may have been reported to Paul that some of his brothers were displaying a tendency to ‘loiter at their business’ as Christians. (Rom. 12:11) This limited the results of their labors as well as the joy that they otherwise could have derived from helping others.

³ **Jesus’ View of the Ministry:** What delight Jesus found in car-

rying out his ministry! He said: “My food is for me to do the will of him that sent me and to finish his work.” Jesus’ example motivated his disciples, whom he encouraged by telling them that ‘the fields are white for harvesting.’ (John 4:34, 35) The sense of urgency that he displayed throughout his ministry was evident when he told his disciples to “beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest.” (Matt. 9:38) Jesus appreciated that his commission was to preach, and he was determined not to let anything prevent him from doing so.

⁴ **What About Us?** Today, there is greater urgency than ever before to move ahead with the preaching work. In many

parts of the world, the fields are ripe for harvesting. Even in lands where a thorough witness has seemingly been given, thousands are being baptized each year. With the end of this system of things rapidly approaching, there is “plenty to do in the work of the Lord.” (1 Cor. 15:58) More than at any other time, it is vital that we exert ourselves vigorously in sharing the Kingdom message with others.

⁵ Let us be absorbed in reaching others with the good news, both from house to house and wherever else people can be found in the territory. By sharing as fully as possible in the preaching work, we clearly demonstrate that we have put the Kingdom first in our lives. (Matt. 6:33) Our faithfulness in preaching the word urgently will bring us much joy.

“Women Who Are Working Hard in the Lord”

¹ With the above words, Paul described Tryphaena and Tryphosa, two hardworking sisters in the Rome congregation. Of another, Persis, he said: “She performed many labors in the Lord.” He likewise made favorable mention of Phoebe as “a defender of many.” (Rom. 16:2, 12) In the Scriptures, Dorcas was singled out as one who “abounded in good deeds and gifts of mercy.” (Acts 9:36) What a blessing spiritual women are to the congregation!

² Do we appreciate the sisters who work hard in our congregation? They do the bulk of the preaching work, conduct most of the Bible studies, and as-

sist many of the new ones. They also spend considerable time in helping children to make spiritual progress. Christian women do their part in building up the spirit of love, joy, peace, and zeal in the congregation. They are supportive in many ways so that their husbands and other family members can do more in Jehovah’s service.

³ **Sisters in Full-Time Service:** Among those who labor very hard in the Lord are missionary sisters, many having shared in developing the work in foreign lands. In the congregations served by their husbands, the wives of traveling overseers are busy in the field

ministry, encouraging many sisters. Not to be overlooked are the Bethel sisters, who zealously perform sacred service in support of Jehovah’s organization. And our regular pioneer sisters, by their faithful efforts in praising God, are helping thousands to learn the truth.

⁴ These faithful women find great satisfaction in their self-sacrificing way of life. (1 Tim. 6:6, 8) They are worthy of commendation and whatever encouragement and support we can give them.

⁵ Christian women are a valuable asset to Jehovah’s organization, performing faithful service that is a blessing to all. May we continue to appreciate such women and pray that Jehovah’s blessing will be with them as they keep “working hard in the Lord.”

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting February 14

Song 113

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

15 min: "Preach the Word . . . Urgently." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Include comments on *Our Ministry* book, page 170. Offer some practical suggestions on how to increase preaching activity during the rest of the winter.

20 min: "How to Develop Reasoning Ability." Talk and demonstration. Explain *why* the ability to reason is so important in the ministry and *how* to acquire it. Have two capable publishers discuss how to prepare for the ministry by following the steps outlined in paragraph 3 of the article and then demonstrate their presentation. Song 182 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 21

Song 17

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: "Women Who Are Working Hard in the Lord." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Include comments on September 15, 1996, *Watchtower*, pages 14-15, paragraphs 18-19. Warmly commend sisters for their willing support, the beneficial services they perform for others, and their zealous preaching activity.

20 min: "What Can Help Us to Stand Firm in the Faith?" Talk by an elder. We live in critical times, and all of us need assistance in some way. Review what elders and ministerial servants can do to strengthen those beset by discouraging problems. (See the subheading "Shepherding That Is Upbuilding" in the September 15, 1993, *Watchtower*, pages 21-3.) Explain

how we can encourage one another in ways that will stabilize us spiritually.—Rom. 1:11, 12.

Song 82 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting February 28

Song 46

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for February. Briefly review the "Four Easy Steps" for using tracts to start conversations that were outlined on page 4 of last month's *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Demonstrate how the *Peaceful New World* tract can be used to introduce the *Knowledge* book. After posing the questions from the opening paragraph of the tract, read the first paragraph on page 3, including Psalm 37:29. If interest is shown, open the *Knowledge* book to page 5, read the box, and offer a study. This month, all should make a special effort to start new home Bible studies.

5 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

12 min: Appreciating the Work of Regional Building Committees. Talk by an elder, based on the August 1995 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert. The 77 Regional Building Committees now operating in the United States branch territory have aided in constructing, renovating, and maintaining 2,289 Kingdom Halls, benefiting 3,484 congregations. There is still much work to be done. Consider the work of regional committees, and build enthusiasm for Kingdom Hall construction. Explain who can qualify as volunteer workers, and stimulate more to volunteer. (See November 1992 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert, paragraphs 18-20.) Interview some who have shared in a Kingdom Hall construction project, and include their comments on the joy they have experienced.—See June 1, 1999, *Watchtower*, pages 18-19, paragraphs 15-16.

18 min: "Preaching the Good News With Strong Conviction." Have a two- or three-minute heartfelt introduction based on material as well as cited and quoted scriptures in paragraphs 1 and 2. Then cover paragraphs 3-12 by question-and-answer discussion.

Song 61 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 6

Song 116

5 min: Local announcements.

10 min: Local needs.

10 min: "Pay Attention to How You Listen." A family head discusses with his wife and children what they can do to benefit more fully from congregation meetings, assemblies, and conventions. He feels that all in the family could concentrate better. They review the suggestions listed and consider how to apply each one, including the need to have more discussions about the things learned. They consider how to live up to their resolve not to miss any meetings or any session of a convention or assembly if at all possible.

20 min: "Preaching the Good News With Strong Conviction." After a brief review of last week's discussion of first 12 paragraphs of insert, conduct question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 13-24. Make good use of quoted and cited scriptures.

Song 186 and concluding prayer.

NOVEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	151	122.4	105.7	51.8	4.6
Pios.	94,458	65.3	46.8	20.7	1.6
Aux. Pios.	22,868	49.7	38.2	13.6	0.9
Pubs.	821,247	9.1	8.2	3.4	0.3
TOTAL	938,724			Baptized: 2,093	

November brought a new peak in regular pioneers! The total of 94,458 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 394 over the previous peak of 94,064 in October 1999.

Preaching the Good News With Strong Conviction

¹ Early in the first century, Jesus Christ commissioned his followers to preach the good news of the Kingdom and “make disciples of people of all the nations.” (Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20) Jehovah’s Witnesses have taken his instruction seriously, so that by the end of the 20th century, our Christian brotherhood has swelled to more than 5,900,000 disciples in 234 lands. What a grand shout of praise to our heavenly Father!

² We have now entered the 21st century. Our Adversary insidiously tries to interfere with our main work of Kingdom preaching and disciple making. He uses pressures from this system of things in an effort to divert our attention, consume our time, and drain our energies with a host of nonessential cares and interests. Rather than allowing this system to dictate what is important in life, we prove to ourselves from God’s Word what is paramount—doing Jehovah’s will. (Rom. 12:2) That means obeying the Scriptural exhortation to ‘preach the word in favorable and troublesome season and to fully accomplish our ministry.’—2 Tim. 4:2, 5.

³ **Develop Firm Conviction:** Christians need to “stand complete and with firm conviction in all the will of God.” (Col. 4:12) The word “conviction” is defined as “a strong persuasion or belief; the state of being convinced.” As Christians we must be convinced that God’s prophetic word is certain and that we are now deep into the time of the end. We must have a belief as strong as that of the apostle Paul, who said that the good news “is, in fact, God’s power for salvation to everyone having faith.”—Rom. 1:16.

⁴ The Devil uses wicked men and impostors, who are themselves misled, to influence and mislead others. (2 Tim. 3:13) Being forewarned of this, we take steps to strengthen our conviction that we have the truth. Rather than letting the anxieties of life dampen our zeal, we keep putting

Kingdom interests first. (Matt. 6:33, 34) Nor do we want to lose sight of the urgency of the times, perhaps feeling that the end of this system is far off. It is drawing ever closer. (1 Pet. 4:7) Though we may feel that spreading the good news has little effect in some lands in view of the witness already given, the warning work must continue.—Ezek. 33:7-9.

⁵ The key questions at this late date are: ‘Do I take seriously Jesus’ commission to make disciples? When I preach the good news, do I manifest strong conviction that the Kingdom is real? Am I determined to have as great a share as possible in this lifesaving ministry?’ Realizing how far along we are in the time of the end, we must pay attention to ourselves and to our preaching and teaching commission. Doing this we will save both ourselves and those who listen to us. (1 Tim. 4:16) How can all of us strengthen our conviction as ministers?

⁶ **Imitate the Thessalonians:** The apostle Paul, in recalling the hard work of the brothers in Thessalonica, said to them: “The good news we preach did not turn up among you with speech alone but also with power and with holy spirit and *strong conviction*, just as you know what sort of men we became to you for your sakes; and you became imitators of us and of the Lord, seeing that you accepted the word under much tribulation with joy of holy spirit.” (1 Thess. 1:5, 6) Yes, Paul commended the congregation of the Thessalonians because despite much tribulation they preached with zeal and strong conviction. What enabled them to do this? To a great extent, the zeal and conviction that they saw in the apostle Paul and his fellow workers had a positive effect on them. How so?

⁷ The very lives of Paul and his traveling companions testified that they had God’s spirit upon them and that they wholeheartedly believed in what they were

preaching. Before coming to Thessalonica, Paul and Silas were insolently treated at Philippi. Without a trial, they were beaten, jailed, and confined in stocks. This trying experience, however, did not dampen their zeal for the good news. Divine intervention effected their release, led to the conversion of the jailer and his household, and made the way for these brothers to continue in their ministry.—Acts 16:19-34.

⁸ In the strength of God's spirit, Paul came to Thessalonica. There he labored to procure his own necessities and then expended himself fully in teaching the truth to the Thessalonians. He did not hold back from declaring the good news at every opportunity. (1 Thess. 2:9) Paul's preaching with strong conviction had such a powerful effect on the local people that some of them forsook their former idolatrous worship and became servants of the true God, Jehovah.—1 Thess. 1:8-10.

⁹ Persecution did not hinder the new believers from acting on the good news. Prompted by their newfound faith and fully convinced that everlasting blessings would be theirs, the Thessalonians were impelled to proclaim the truth that they had enthusiastically embraced. So active did that congregation become that news of their faith and zeal spread to other parts of Macedonia and even into Achaia. Hence, when Paul wrote his first letter to the Thessalonians, their good works were already well-known. (1 Thess. 1:7) What an outstanding example!

¹⁰ **Motivated by Love for God and for People:** How can we, like the Thessalonians, maintain strong personal conviction when preaching the good news today? Of them, Paul wrote: "We bear incessantly in mind your faithful work and your hard effort *due to love*." (1 Thess. 1:3, ftn.) It is obvious that they had a deep, heartfelt love for Jehovah God and for the people to whom they preached. It was this same love that motivated Paul and his companions to impart to the Thessalonians "not only the good news of God, but also [their] own souls."—1 Thess. 2:8.

¹¹ Similarly, our deep love for Jehovah and for our fellowman moves us to want to participate fully in the preaching work that God has given us to do. With such love, we recognize that it is our personal, God-given responsibility to spread the good news. By meditating positively and appreciatively on all that Jehovah has done for us in directing us toward "the real life," we are motivated to tell others the same wonderful truths that we believe with all our heart.—1 Tim. 6:19.

¹² As we keep busy in the preaching work, our love for Jehovah and for people must continue growing. If it does, we will be stimulated to intensify our share in the door-to-door ministry and to pursue all other forms of witnessing open to us. We will take advantage of opportunities to witness informally to relatives, neighbors, and acquaintances. Although most people may reject the good news that we offer and some will endeavor to interfere with the proclamation of the Kingdom, we experience an inner joy. Why? Because we know that we have done our best to witness about the Kingdom and help people gain salvation. And Jehovah will bless our efforts to find righthearted ones. Even when the pressures of life close in on us and Satan seeks to sap our joy, we are able to maintain our strong conviction and our zeal in witnessing to others. When all of us do our part, this results in strong, zealous congregations like the one in Thessalonica.

¹³ **Never Give Up Under Trial:** Conviction is also needed when we meet with various trials. (1 Pet. 1:6, 7) Jesus made clear to his disciples that if they followed him, they would be "objects of hatred by all the nations." (Matt. 24:9) Paul and Silas experienced this when in Philippi. The account in Acts chapter 16 says that Paul and Silas were thrown into the inner prison and confined in stocks. Generally, the main prison was a kind of court or vestibule around the edge of which were cells that had the advantage of light and air. The inner prison, however, had no provision for light and had limited ventilation. Paul and Silas

had to deal with the darkness, heat, and stench of this miserable place of confinement. Can you imagine the pain they must have felt while being confined in stocks for hours with their backs raw and bleeding from the scourging?

¹⁴ Despite these trials, Paul and Silas remained faithful. They manifested heartfelt conviction, strengthening them to serve Jehovah regardless of the test. Their conviction is highlighted in verse 25 of chapter 16, where it says that Paul and Silas were “praying and praising God with song.” In fact, although they were in the inner prison, they were so sure of having God’s approval that they sang loud enough to be heard by the other prisoners! We must have similar conviction today when facing tests of our faith.

¹⁵ The trials that the Devil thrusts upon us are numerous. For some it may be persecution from family. Many of our brothers face legal challenges. Opposition from apostates may be encountered. There are financial burdens and the anxiety of how to make ends meet. Young ones face peer pressure at school. How can we face these trials successfully? What is needed to manifest conviction?

¹⁶ First and foremost, we need to *maintain a close personal relationship with Jehovah*. When Paul and Silas were in the inner prison, they did not use that time to complain about their lot in life or to feel sorry for themselves. They immediately turned to God in prayer and praised him in song. Why? Because they had a close personal relationship with their heavenly Father. They realized that they were suffering for the sake of righteousness and that their salvation rested in the hands of Jehovah.—Ps. 3:8.

¹⁷ When we face trials today, we too must look to Jehovah. Paul encourages us as Christians to ‘let our petitions be made known to God; and the peace of God that excels all thought will guard our hearts and our mental powers.’ (Phil. 4:6, 7) How comforting it is to know that Jehovah will not let us go through trials alone! (Isa. 41:

10) He is always with us as long as we serve him with true conviction.—Ps. 46:7.

¹⁸ Another vital aid in manifesting conviction is *staying busy in Jehovah’s service*. (1 Cor. 15:58) Paul and Silas were thrown into prison because they had been busy preaching the good news. Did they cease preaching because of their trials? No, they continued preaching even while in prison, and after they were released, they traveled to Thessalonica and went to the synagogue of the Jews to ‘reason with them from the Scriptures.’ (Acts 17:1-3) When we have a strong persuasion or belief in Jehovah and are convinced that we have the truth, nothing “will be able to separate us from God’s love that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”—Rom. 8:35-39.

¹⁹ **Modern Examples of Strong Conviction:** There are many outstanding examples of those in our day who, like Paul and Silas, have demonstrated strong conviction. One sister who survived the Auschwitz concentration camp tells of the unshakable faith and conviction demonstrated by the brothers and sisters there. She relates: “Once during an interrogation, an officer came toward me with clenched fists. ‘What are we going to do with you people?’ he exclaimed. ‘If we arrest you, you don’t care. If we send you to prison, you don’t care one bit. If we send you to the concentration camp, it doesn’t worry you. When we sentence you to death, you just stand there unconcerned. What are we going to do with you?’” How faith strengthening it is to see the faith our brothers had under such harsh circumstances! They constantly looked to Jehovah for help to endure.

²⁰ Surely we remember the conviction of many of our brothers in the face of the ethnic hatred that has manifested itself in recent years. Despite finding themselves in dangerous situations, responsible brothers are intent on seeing that their brothers and sisters are being fed spiritually. All continue faithful with strong conviction that ‘any weapon formed against them will have no success.’—Isa. 54:17.

²¹ Many of our brothers and sisters with unbelieving mates are also manifesting strong faith and endurance. One brother in Guadeloupe met with strong opposition from his unbelieving wife. To discourage him and interfere with his attending Christian meetings, she would not prepare his meals or wash, iron, and mend his clothes. For days on end, she would not talk to him. But by manifesting heartfelt conviction in serving Jehovah and turning to him in prayer for help, this brother was able to endure it all. For how long? For some 20 years—after which his wife gradually had a change of heart. Eventually, he could truly rejoice because she accepted the hope of God's Kingdom.

²² Finally, we must not forget the strong conviction of our young brothers and sisters who attend school each day and deal with peer pressure and other challenges. Concerning the pressure to conform in school, one young Witness girl stated: "When you're in school, everyone's always encouraging you to be a little rebellious. The kids respect you more if you do something on the edge." What pressure our young people face! They must be firmly resolved in mind and heart to resist temptation.

²³ Many of our young ones are doing well in maintaining their integrity despite trials. One example is that of a young sister who lives in France. One day after lunch, some boys tried to force her to kiss them, but she prayed and resisted strongly, so the boys left her alone. Later, one of them came back and told her that he admired her for her courage. She was able to give him a good witness about the Kingdom, explaining the high standards that Jehovah sets for all who want to share in its blessings. During the school year, she also explained her beliefs to the entire class.

²⁴ What a precious privilege we have to be counted among those whom Jehovah is pleased to use to speak with firm conviction about his will! (Col. 4:12) Additionally, we have the wonderful opportunity of proving our integrity when under attack by our lionlike Adversary, Satan the Devil. (1 Pet. 5:8, 9) Never forget that Jehovah is using the Kingdom message to bring salvation both to us who preach it and to those who listen. May the decisions that we make and our daily way of life prove that we put the Kingdom first. Let us continue preaching the good news with strong conviction!

NEW PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

■ New Publications Available:
Sing Praises to Jehovah—Large Print
 (Lyrics only) —German
The Secret of Family Happiness
 —Hiligaynon
What Does God Require of Us? —Chichewa, Ewe, Kikuyu, Shona, Slovak, Slovenian, Venda
What Happens to Us When We Die?
 —Bulgarian
Who Really Rules the World? (Tract No. 22) —Yapese
The Awake! is now available in Lithuanian as a semimonthly edition.
 ■ New Audiocassettes Available:
Appreciating Our Spiritual Heritage
 (Drama, single cassette) —English

Preserving Life in Time of Famine (Drama, single cassette) —Twi
The Watchtower and Awake! on audio-cassette are now available in Czech.
 ■ New Braille Publications Available:
Examining the Scriptures Daily—2000
 (four volumes) —Grade-two English
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? (two volumes) —Grade-two French, Grade-two German
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? (three volumes) —Grade-one French, Grade-one Italian
Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!
 (three volumes) —Grade-two English

Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy! (four volumes) —Grade-one Spanish
Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2000 (one volume)
 —Grade-two English
What Does God Require of Us? (one volume) —Grade-one Russian, Grade-two Swahili
When Someone You Love Dies (one volume) —Grade-one Italian
 Please mark requests for Braille publications ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK. Include name and address of the person who will use the Braille material.
 ■ New Videocassettes Available:
Noah—He Walked With God
 —French, Italian
The Bible—Its Power in Your Life
 —Romanian

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **February:** *The Secret of Family Happiness*. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. **April and May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for interested people, and endeavor to start home Bible studies.

■ The secretary and the service overseer should review the activity of all regular pioneers. If any are having difficulty meeting the hour requirement, the elders should arrange for assistance to be given. For suggestions, review Society's annual S-201 letters dated October 1. See also paragraphs 12-20 of the August 1986 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert.

■ On Saturday, May 13, 2000, the Society's facilities in Brooklyn, Patterson, and Walkill, New York, will be closed for spring cleaning. There will be no arrangements for tours or for congregations to pick up literature on that day.

■ The secretary should see that the Regional Building Committee is kept up-to-date on the status of all baptized publishers who have submitted Kingdom Hall Volunteer Worker Questionnaire (S-82) forms. When there are adjustments in a volunteer's status, such as when one moves or is appointed as a ministerial servant or elder, new forms should be filled out promptly and submitted. If a volunteer's mailing address or telephone

number changes, or if he is no longer in good standing in the congregation, the elders should immediately inform the regional committee by letter.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office when reaching 18 years of age. All of those required to do so should take care of the matter promptly, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. Elders will want to have this in mind and give appropriate reminders to young brothers nearing the age of 18. Questions as to the young Christian's responsibilities in this regard may be answered by the elders.

■ On occasion the Society issues a check to an individual, and the payee decides not to cash it, thinking that it will be viewed as a donation to the worldwide work. Please be advised that after a period of time, such checks are viewed as unclaimed property, and the funds have to be turned over to the State. If a person wants to donate the amount of the check, he should return the check to the Society with a brief note stating that it is to be considered as a donation.

■ Beginning the week of April 17, 2000, we will study *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* in the Congregation Book Study.

■ When working unassigned territory, publishers may offer the *Knowledge* book or the *Require* brochure. Any other publication may be offered if the householder already has these two publications. All should carry a variety of tracts for not-at-homes or

individuals who do not accept literature. Efforts should be made to follow up interest, especially where unassigned territories may be worked by special pioneers or are accessible to nearby congregations.

Pay Attention to How You Listen

Paying close attention is vital when attending congregation meetings, assemblies, and conventions. (Luke 8:18) How can you improve your listening ability?

- Avoid eating a heavy meal before meetings.
- Refuse to allow your mind to wander.
- Take brief notes of the main points.
- Look up the scriptures that are read.
- Participate when there is opportunity.
- Reflect on the material being presented.
- Think of ways to use what you hear.
- Afterward, discuss what you learned.

See the *Theocratic Ministry School Guidebook*, study 5.

QUESTION BOX

■ Is it appropriate to applaud when a reinstatement is announced?

In his loving-kindness, Jehovah God has provided a Scriptural way for repentant wrongdoers to regain his favor and achieve reinstatement in the Christian congregation. (Ps. 51:12, 17) When this takes place, we are encouraged to confirm our love for such sincerely repentant ones.—2 Cor. 2:6-8.

Even so, as joyful as we are when a relative or acquaintance is reinstated, a quiet dignity should prevail at the time that the person's reinstatement is announced in the congregation. The *Watchtower* of October 1, 1998, page 17, expressed matters this way: "We must remember, however, that most in the congregation are not aware of the particular circumstances that led to a person's expulsion or to his reinstatement. In addition, there may be some who have been per-

sonally affected or hurt—perhaps even on a long-term basis—by the wrongdoing of the repentant one. Being sensitive to such matters, therefore, when an announcement of reinstatement is made, we would understandably withhold expressions of welcome until such can be made on a personal basis."

Although we are very happy to see someone return to the truth, applause at the time of his or her reinstatement would not be appropriate.

How to Develop Reasoning Ability

¹ One definition of the word “reason” is “to talk with another so as to influence his actions or opinions.” In order to improve your effectiveness in the ministry, you need to cultivate the ability to reason with those you meet. (Acts 17:2-4) But how can you develop this skill?

² **It Starts With Meditation:** When studying Bible truths, you will find it helpful to reflect upon the material. If points seem a little more involved, take time to do some research and meditate on the answers. Seek to understand clearly not only the explanations provided but also the Scriptural reasons for those explanations.

³ **Preparation for the Ministry Is Involved:** Think about how you would explain the truth to various types of people. Formulate a thought-provoking ques-

tion to stimulate interest. Determine how to tie in a Scriptural point and reason on it. Anticipate objections that might be raised, and think about how to discuss them. Isolate in the publication being offered a highlight that would best apply.

⁴ **Follow the Example of Jesus:** Jesus set the finest pattern of effectively reasoning from the Scriptures. To analyze how he taught, consider the account found at Luke 10:25-37. Note this process: (1) Direct attention to the Scriptures when answering people’s questions. (2) Invite them to express themselves, and commend them when they make discerning comments. (3) Make sure that the connection between the question and the Scriptures is kept in focus. (4) Use an illustration with heart appeal to be certain that

the real import of the answer is understood.—See March 1, 1986, *Watchtower*, pages 27-8, paragraphs 8-10.

⁵ **Use the Tool We Were Given:** *Reasoning From the Scriptures* was published as a field ministry handbook. Its introductions, responses to potential conversation stoppers, and reasoning points help us to develop reasoning ability. The *Reasoning* book is a valuable tool that we should always carry with us in service and not hesitate to use when engaging in Bible discussions. Review pages 7-8 of the book to see how to use it to greatest advantage.

⁶ Developing your reasoning ability will enhance your skill in the preaching and teaching work. This will result in rich blessings to you and to those whom you meet in the ministry.

What Can Help Us to Stand Firm in the Faith?

¹ Ever since we began associating with Jehovah’s organization, our spiritual progress has proved to be a source of joy for us! Yet, to remain ‘rooted, built up, and stabilized in the faith,’ continued spiritual growth is necessary. (Col. 2:6, 7) While most have prospered spiritually, some have drifted away because of failing to “stand firm in the faith.” (1 Cor. 16:13) We can prevent this from happening to us. How?

² **Constant Spiritual Activity:** Establish a good spiritual routine within Jehovah’s organization. Here our spiritual needs are cared for abundantly. Congregation meetings, assemblies, and conventions spur us on to greater spiritual growth and stability, provided we are in con-

stant attendance to reap the benefits. (Heb. 10:24, 25) A regular routine of reading the Bible, the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines, and the books that discuss the meat of God’s Word will cause our spiritual roots to grow deep and strong. (Heb. 5:14) Setting personal spiritual goals and diligently working toward them will also bring lasting benefits.—Phil. 3:16.

³ **Assistance From Mature Ones:** Seek to widen out in association with spiritually mature ones in the congregation. Get to know the elders, as they are primarily the ones who can strengthen us. (1 Thess. 2:11, 12) Welcome any counsel or suggestions they might offer. (Eph. 4:11-16) Ministerial servants are also interested in helping others

to be made firm in the faith, so look to these brothers for encouragement.

⁴ Do you need assistance in the ministry? Speak to the elders, and request help. Perhaps you can be included in the Pioneers Assist Others program. Are you newly baptized? Studying the *Our Ministry* book and applying what it contains will stimulate progress toward spiritual maturity. Are you a parent? Continually strengthen the spirituality of your children.—Eph. 6:4.

⁵ By being rooted and stabilized in the faith, we enjoy a close relationship with Jehovah and warm association with our brothers. This enables us to withstand Satan’s attacks, and strengthens our hope of an everlasting future.—1 Pet. 5:9, 10.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

March 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 3/00 Vol. 43, No. 3

We Preach Good News

¹ What a wonderful privilege we have to be the bearers of “good news of good things!” (Rom. 10:15) We have a refreshing message to share with people who are surrounded by turmoil and despair. How can we help them recognize that we are offering “good news of something better”?—Isa. 52:7.

² **Prepare a Positive Message:** Our conversations in the ministry will have a wholesome effect if we focus on good things. Therefore, when preparing our presentation and reviewing the publication we will offer, we need to highlight positive aspects of the message. By imparting our Bible-based hope with confidence and enthusi-

asm, we can expect encouraging results.—Prov. 25:11.

³ Although we are sympathetic when people express how they have been affected by worsening world conditions, we should point out to them the real solution to man’s problems, God’s Kingdom. Even when discussing Jehovah’s coming “day of vengeance,” we want to show how this really means “good news to the meek ones.” (Isa. 61:1, 2) We can reassure our listeners that everything Jehovah does will ultimately bring the greatest happiness and the best possible outcome.

⁴ **Present the Truth With Real Joy:** When people notice our joyful countenance and confident tone of voice, they are

more apt to listen. If we reflect an optimistic outlook, our listeners will perceive that we “rejoice in the hope.” (Rom. 12:12) Thus, they may be more inclined to respond to the good news. Certainly, we have good reason always to display a positive, joyful attitude in every aspect of our ministry.

⁵ As ministers of the good news, we do far more than inform. Our preaching imparts a sure hope of a better life now as well as in the future. (1 Tim. 4:8) As we approach each person, our positive frame of mind will be reflected in what we say and will help people to accept the good news. By paying attention to what we say and how we say it, let us incite honesthearted ones to embrace the exciting *good news* that we preach!

‘What Can I Do?’

¹ ‘What can I do?’ No doubt, that question was on the minds of the members of the small Bible study group organized by Charles Taze Russell in the 1870’s. As they progressed in their understanding of God’s will, those early Bible students must have wondered what they could do to help others learn about God’s purpose. To reach out to the entire world with the Bible knowledge that they were gaining was certainly a monumental task.

² Happily for us, they met that challenge. How? Each individual did his seemingly insignificant part, so that today, Jehovah’s Witnesses have become known worldwide—an organization of nearly six million Kingdom pro-

claimers serving in some 90,000 congregations in 234 lands and islands of the sea!—Isa. 60:22.

³ **Offer Your Full Support:** It is vital for each one of us to have some share in the tremendous work Jesus foretold would be done in these last days. (Mark 13:10) Certainly this work cannot be left solely to the limited number of elders; nor does the preaching activity fall only on the shoulders of the pioneers. In reality, every dedicated Christian has an important role to play. All of us can participate in some form of preaching activity. (1 Tim. 1:12) To whatever extent we do this, we benefit ourselves and others.—1 Tim. 4:16.

⁴ Each one can also offer full

support to our Christian brotherhood in other significant ways. We can support the congregation meetings by attending regularly and by participating enthusiastically. (Ps. 122:1, 8, 9) We can do our part to keep the congregation morally clean. We can provide financial support for the worldwide work, according to our means. We can share in cleaning the Kingdom Hall. Everyone can promote a warm spirit of love and unity in the congregation by assisting new ones, young ones, and older ones alike.—Col. 3:12, 14.

⁵ So you might ask, ‘What can I do?’ Although your individual efforts might seem small, by doing your part, you contribute to a strong, active, and healthy congregation. Thus all of us have a vital share in honoring Jehovah’s name!

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting March 13

Song 118

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

15 min: "We Preach Good News." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Give examples of positive Scriptural points that can be drawn from the *Knowledge* book when offering it in the ministry.

20 min: "Can We Make April 2000 Our Best Month Ever?" (Paragraphs 1-11) Questions and answers. Mention the peak number of auxiliary pioneers in the congregation's recent history. Have some who are among that number tell of the personal benefits they derive from increasing their share in the ministry. Encourage the congregation to work toward a new peak in auxiliary pioneers during April. Review qualifications outlined in the *Our Ministry* book, pages 113-14. Publishers wishing to auxiliary pioneer may obtain an application after the meeting. Song 187 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 20

Song 21

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: "What Can I Do?" A book study conductor discusses article with one or two ministerial servants. Because of various limitations, some publishers may feel that they are able to contribute little toward the activity of the congregation. Review some of the many ways all of us can make a valuable contribution toward strengthening the congregation and advancing the Kingdom work. Conclude by showing how each one can "Share in a Final Report."—See *Our Ministry*, pages 108-10.

20 min: "Can We Make April 2000 Our Best Month Ever?" (Para-

graphs 12-18) Questions and answers. Include a brief demonstration of how to invite a personal acquaintance to the Memorial. Review April on the *2000 Calendar*, and outline the meetings for service that are planned locally. Remind each one to make a practical schedule for sharing as much as possible in the ministry during the month, thus aiming for 100 percent participation by the congregation. Encourage all who can to auxiliary pioneer and to obtain an application after the meeting. Song 65 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting March 27

Song 119

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for March. Announce the names of those who will be auxiliary pioneering in April. Explain that it is not too late to submit an application. Outline entire schedule of meetings for field service planned for the month. Encourage everyone to share in the ministry this weekend, getting April off to a good start. Remind brothers that daylight saving time begins this weekend. This may help auxiliary pioneers in reaching their goals. We will offer individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* during the month. Highlight one article and appropriate talking point that could be used effectively in presentations of each of the current issues. Everyone should have a copy of the *Require* brochure and endeavor to use it to start Bible studies with interested people.

13 min: "Ask for Help." Talk and audience discussion by an elder. Explain how all of us are in need of some type of assistance periodically. Of course, each one should carry his own load. (Gal. 6:5) However, when we are unable to cope, we should not hesitate to seek help from a spiritually mature member of the congregation. Invite audience to relate experiences show-

ing how kindly assistance given by others encouraged them.

10 min: Local needs.

12 min: Review *2000 Yearbook*. Audience discussion and review of highlights of the "1999 Grand Totals," on page 31. Also discuss "A Letter From the Governing Body," on pages 3-5. Ask for comments from some as to how they will follow through on the encouragement given.

Song 195 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 3

Song 72

10 min: Local announcements and field service experiences. Use selected recent experiences from local territory that will encourage others to participate.

17 min: "Studying *Daniel's Prophecy*." Questions and answers. Briefly comment on how we stand to benefit from studying the Bible book of Daniel. (See chapter 1, paragraphs 15-17, in the *Daniel's Prophecy* book.) Encourage all to attend the Congregation Book Study regularly.

18 min: Should I Report Serious Wrongdoing? An earnest talk by an elder, directed toward young people. Many problems have developed in modern society that have had a detrimental effect on young people: decaying moral standards, increasing violence, addiction to drugs, and lack of respect for authority. Some teenagers live a double life, hiding their misconduct. This poses a real threat to the spiritual well-being of the whole congregation. Some commit serious wrongdoing and want to keep it secret. If you learn that a brother or a sister in the congregation has done something that is a serious violation of God's law, what should you do? Consider the principle set out at Leviticus 5:1. (See the August 15, 1997, *Watchtower*, pages 27-30.) Refer to *Young People Ask* book, pages 68-9, and explain what a person should do in such a case.

Song 68 and concluding prayer.

Can We Make April 2000 Our Best Month Ever?

¹ Wednesday evening, April 19⁷, will be the highlight of our service year. That day, as the sun sets progressively around the earth, every congregation and group of Jehovah's Witnesses worldwide will hold the Memorial of Christ's death. In whatever time zone we live, commemorating the sacrifice of Jesus Christ will be the crowning event of the year. The date of the Memorial is highlighted on the month of April on the 2000 Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses.

² The entire month of April gives us a wonderful opportunity to demonstrate in a whole-souled way our appreciation for Jehovah's undeserved kindness expressed through the sacrifice of his Son. How so? The apostle Paul wrote: "The love the Christ has compels us, because this is what we have judged, that one man died for all; so, then, all had died; and he died for all that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and was raised up.)" (2 Cor. 5:14, 15) Yes, during April we can demonstrate that we are living, not for ourselves, but for him who died for us, making this our best month ever as ministers of the Kingdom!

Auxiliary Pioneers

Our All-Time Peak: 120,979

(April 1989)

³ **Sign Up to Auxiliary Pioneer in April:** The apostle Paul set a stirring example for us when he said: "I do not make my soul of any account as dear to me, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received of the Lord Jesus, to bear thorough witness to the good news of the undeserved kindness of God.)" (Acts 20:24) We have the same

privilege of bearing thorough witness about Jehovah God. To that end, we would like to make April our best month ever in auxiliary pioneer activity!

⁴ With its five full weekends, April 2000 will be an excellent month for many to pioneer. Back in April 1989, when we reached our all-time peak of auxiliary pioneers, the 120,979 who participated represented 15 percent of the total publishers. Ten years later, the total number of publishers who reported in April 1999 had increased by over 18 percent. This means that we have tremendous potential to exceed our previous peak of auxiliary pioneers. Additionally, the requirement of hours has since been reduced, making this feature of service accessible to many more in the congregation. Each baptized publisher ought to consider prayerfully whether he is able to auxiliary pioneer this April.

⁵ Using the month of April on the 2000 Calendar, plan your schedule now for next month. Decide which days you will be able to share in field service, and add up all the hours that you feel that you can devote to the preaching activity during the month. Include the time you can spend in witnessing to others both formally and informally. Does the total come close to the requirement of 50 hours for auxiliary pioneers? If you are lacking the hours needed, can you make any other adjustments in your schedule so as to buy out the time to auxiliary pioneer? You would need to average just one hour and 40 minutes each day to reach 50 hours for the month.

⁶ Now that the hour requirement has also been reduced for regular pioneers, have you been contemplating entering the full-time ministry? Why wait until summer to begin? With winter behind

How Can we increase Ministry?

6. How we can use our time to Reg Pro?

us, April would be a fine month to start! If you are uncertain about your ability to meet the 70-hour requirement for regular pioneers, why not auxiliary pioneer in April (and set 70 hours as your goal? Once you see that you can do it, you may be more inclined to apply to join the ranks of the regular pioneers as soon as possible.—See *Our Ministry*, pages 113-14.

Total Publishers

Our All-Time Peak: **1,040,283**

(August 1998)

⁷ Share Fully as a Publisher of the Good News: For all of us, publishers and pioneers alike, our genuine love for God and for neighbor moves us to be whole-souled in doing all we can in Jehovah's service according to our personal circumstances. (Luke 10:27) We thus show that "we are working hard and exerting ourselves, because we have rested our hope on a living God, who is a Savior of all sorts of men, especially of faithful ones." (1 Tim. 4:10) That is why we should expect to see 100-percent participation in April, with everyone having a full share in the Kingdom work.

⁸ Let us not forget Jesus' exhortation: "The harvest is great, but the workers are few. Therefore, beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest." Immediately after saying that, Jesus summoned his 12 apostles and sent them forth to preach. (Matt. 9:37, 38; 10:1, 5, 7) About a year later, after the 12 were well trained in the preaching activity, Jesus "designated seventy others and sent them forth," giving them the same instructions: "The harvest, indeed, is great . . . Therefore beg the Master of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest." (Luke 10:1, 2) The Bible book of Acts reports how Jeho-

vah answered those prayers. By Pentecost 33 C.E., the number of disciples had grown to about 120. Then, consecutive peaks of 3,000 and 5,000 disciples were reached. (Acts 1:15; 2:41; 4:4) After that, "the number of the disciples kept multiplying." (Acts 6:7) Likewise, in the modern era, we must keep begging the Master for still more Kingdom preachers! In harmony with our prayers, each congregation publisher should make definite arrangements to participate in the ministry every month.

Suggestion to make a
⁹ Please take a close look at April on the 2000 Calendar. Since the first two days of the month are a Saturday and a Sunday, can you make plans to share in service that weekend, getting an early start in the month? Can you support every "Magazine Day" during the month with your Congregation Book Study group? What about spending an hour or more each Sunday in the ministry? Thanks to daylight saving time, there will be more daylight hours in the early evenings. Can you arrange to share in some evening witnessing? And do not forget to take advantage of all the opportunities you have to witness informally on the job, at school, or while engaging in other day-to-day activities. Mark the days that you can spend some time in the ministry, and use the calendar to keep track of your service time for the month.

¹⁰ April will be an opportune time for all who are qualified and who have been approved by the elders to begin serving as unbaptized publishers. If you study the Bible with someone, has that person progressed sufficiently to approach the presiding overseer to ask to be considered as a publisher of the good news? If you have unbaptized children, have you discussed their spiritual progress with the elders? Would this not be a good time for them to start publishing? See *Our Ministry*, pages 97-100.

→ sending out workers in harvest.

¹¹ In our endeavor to make April 2000 our best month ever, all of us need to share in the ministry and then turn in our field service report at the end of the month. (Compare Mark 6:30.) The new unbaptized publishers who share in field service for the first time should be encouraged to report their activity promptly. By doing our part, we can make a fine contribution to the April report and to the great shout of praise that will be offered to Jehovah through our witnessing efforts.

Song 187

Memorial Attendance

Our All-Time Peak: 2,135,167

(1997)

¹² **Bring Others With You to the Memorial:** Would it not thrill us to see a new peak in attendance at the 2000 Memorial of Christ's death? Yes! It would mean that the most people ever had come together to manifest their appreciation for the greatest expressions of love that Jehovah God and Jesus Christ have made in our behalf! (John 3:16; 15:13) Make whatever arrangements are necessary so that nothing will prevent you and your family from attending the Memorial.

¹³ Now is also the time to begin inviting others to the Memorial. Make a list of everyone you would like to see attend. Include any who have studied the Bible in the past, those who are studying now, and all your return visits. Add to the list your acquaintances at work, at school, and in the neighborhood, as well as anyone you do business with. Do not forget to include other acquaintances and your relatives. After compiling the list, start extending an earnest, personal invitation to each one. Make clear when and where the Memorial will be held. As

April 19 draws closer, give those on your list a reminder, either in person or by telephone. Offer to have them accompany you to the Memorial that night.

¹⁴ In harmony with previous direction from the Society, the body of elders will be making a special effort to encourage all inactive publishers in the territory to attend the Memorial. (Matt. 18:12-14) The elders will want to review the Society's letter of February 2, 1999. The congregation secretary is to make a list of all inactive publishers, and the service overseer will assign elders to call on them and invite them to the Memorial. Perhaps by receiving an encouraging shepherding visit as soon as possible, these inactive ones can be assisted to become active again in the field ministry, even during April. It will be upbuilding to them to be invited to share with an experienced publisher in the field service.

¹⁵ **Encourage Good Support for April!** It will take good coordination on the part of all the elders, ministerial servants, and family heads to make April 2000 our best month ever. The elders will be diligent in having everything well organized and in taking the lead. (Heb. 13:7) Practical arrangements need to be made for meetings for field service on weekdays and on weekends. Additional meetings for service may be arranged for late afternoon and early evening activity. A complete schedule of all that is planned for April should be posted on the information board. Someone will need to be assigned to handle each scheduled meeting for service. Sufficient territory should be provided to care for the needs of each group.

¹⁶ During April the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines will be featured. In an effort to start home Bible studies, the *Require* brochure is to be offered to all who show interest. Hence, ample

supplies of magazines and brochures need to be provided.

¹⁷ At the end of the month, all book study conductors and their assistants will want to encourage each one in their group to turn in a service report immediately after the month ends. Perhaps this can even be done on Sunday, April 30. Then, when the secretary tallies the reports, if he notes that some publishers have not turned theirs in, he can kindly remind them to do so before May 6, when he must submit the congregation report to the Society. He may call

upon book study conductors to assist him in contacting individual publishers.

¹⁸ The Memorial season is the most important period of the year for God's people. It should be a very busy time for all of us in Jehovah's service. It will be if everyone shares as fully as possible as a publisher of the good news, if those who can sign up to auxiliary pioneer do so, and if we are diligent in bringing others with us to the Memorial of Christ's death. Let us earnestly pray for Jehovah's rich blessing as we endeavor to make April 2000 our best month ever, all to God's praise and glory!—Heb. 13:15.

Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!

Study schedule for April 17, 2000, through January 29, 2001

WEEK OF	CHAPTERS	PARAGRAPHS	STUDY VERSES	WEEK OF	CHAPTERS	PARAGRAPHS	STUDY VERSES
Apr. 17	1	1-18		Oct. 16	12	1-13	Dan. 10:1-8
24	2	1-15		23		14-22 and box on pp. 204-5	Dan. 10:9-21
May 1		16-32 and p. 26		30	13	1-15	Dan. 11:1-4
8	3	1-14	Dan. 1:1-7	Nov. 6		16-30	Dan. 11:5-16
15		15-26	Dan. 1:8-15	13		31-9 (+p. 228)	Dan. 11:17-19
22		27-37	Dan. 1:16-21	20	14	1-15 (*pp. 248-51)	Dan. 11:20-24
29	4	1-11 (*pp. 63-7)	Dan. 2:1-39	27		16-27 (+p. 246; *pp. 252-5)	Dan. 11:25, 26
June 5		12-24	Dan. 2:39, 40		15	1-15	Dan. 11:27-30a
12		25-36 (+p. 56)	Dan. 2:41-49	Dec. 4		16-25 (+p. 268)	Dan. 11:30b, 31
19	5	1-17	Dan. 3:1-18	11			
26		18-25	Dan. 3:19-30	18	16	1-17	Dan. 11:32-41
July 3	6	1-14	Dan. 4:1-27	25		18-28 and p. 284	Dan. 11:42-45
10		15-29	Dan. 4:28-37	Jan. 1	17	1-12	Dan. 12:1-3
17	7	1-16	Dan. 5:1-23	8		13-23 and box on p. 298	Dan. 12:4-11
24		17-28	Dan. 5:24-31	15		24-9 (+p. 301)	Dan. 12:12
31	8	1-16	Dan. 6:1-17	22	18	1-12	Dan. 12:13
Aug. 7		17-29	Dan. 6:18-28	29		13-27	Dan. 12:13
14	9	1-12 (*pp. 149-52)	Dan. 7:1-5				
21		13-19 (*pp. 153-63)	Dan. 7:6, 7				
28		20-32	Dan. 7:8				
Sept. 4		33-40 (+p. 139)	Dan. 7:9-28				
11	10	1-15	Dan. 8:1-8				
18		16-30	Dan. 8:9-27				
25	11	1-12	Dan. 9:1-23				
Oct. 2		13-20 (*p. 197; **pp. 188-9)	Dan. 9:24, 25				
9		21-30	Dan. 9:26, 27				

*Additional material to read and discuss when considering paragraph in which reference to it is made.

**Discuss chart.

+Include discussion of the page indicated when considering teaching box at conclusion of chapter.

At the conclusion of the weekly study, read and discuss "study verses" from the book of Daniel, as time permits.

See March 2000 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 8, "Studying Daniel's Prophecy."

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. **April and May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for interested people, and endeavor to start home Bible studies. **June:** *What Does God Require of Us?* Concentrate on starting home Bible studies.

■ Publishers who wish to serve as auxiliary pioneers in April and May should make their plans now and turn in their application early. This will help the elders to make necessary field service arrangements and have sufficient magazines and other literature on hand. The names of all who are approved to auxiliary pioneer should be announced to the congregation each month.

■ This issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* contains the complete study schedule for the book *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* You may want to photocopy it and insert it in your personal copy of the book for handy reference.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on March 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ The Memorial will be held Wednesday, April 19, 2000. If your congregation normally has meetings on Wednesday, these are to be switched to another day of the week if the Kingdom Hall is available. If this is not possible and your Service Meeting is affected, the parts that are particularly applicable to your congregation may be incorporated into another Service Meeting.

■ Those associated with a congregation should send all new and renewal subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, including their personal subscriptions, through the congregation.

■ The Society does not fill individual publishers' requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made each month before the congregation's monthly request for literature is sent to the Society so that all who are interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

■ It is important that groups of 20 or more persons planning to visit

it the Society's facilities first correspond by mail with the Central Tour Desk at 100 Watchtower Drive, Patterson, NY 12563-9204. The Central Tour Desk will care for groups that will be visiting the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York, or the Assembly Hall at Jersey City, New Jersey. Please send information on the number coming and the dates and times for visiting each location. The Society will provide a description of the tours that are available as well as a map giving directions to each location. **LODGING INFORMATION HAS BEEN SENT TO THE CONGREGATION ELDERS AND MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE CONGREGATION SECRETARY.** Before your visit, please review the March 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box regarding proper dress and grooming when visiting Bethel homes.

■ A packet of legal material is available to assist publishers who are involved in lawsuits over child custody and visitation matters in which our religion is under attack. The packet should be requested by the *body of elders only* in a case in which it is evident that the publisher's religious beliefs will be at issue. For those facing secular issues on child custody or visitation, helpful information can be found in *Awake!* of December 8, 1997, pages 3-12; in *Awake!* of October 22, 1988, pages 2-14; and on the chart found in *Awake!* of April 22, 1991, page 9.

■ Congregations may now begin submitting requests for *Watchtower Library—1999 Edition*. This compact disc will be available in the same nine languages as the 1997 edition, that is, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Italian, Japanese (requires Japanese version of Windows), Portuguese, and Spanish. Congregations may begin submitting their orders, but please keep in mind that these are special-request items. Until compact discs are available and shipments are made, they will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists.

■ New Publications Available:
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Pangasinan, Tumbuka
Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15) —Hindi
Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work —Slovak
Watch Tower Publications Index 1999 —English

What Does God Require of Us? —Pangasinan, Zulu

What Happens to Us When We Die? —Swahili

What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? (Tract No. 16) —Bengali, Hindi

Why You Can Trust the Bible (Tract No. 13) —Hindi

■ New Audiocassettes Available:
Families—Make Daily Bible Reading Your Way of Life! (Drama, single cassette) —Korean, Spanish
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life (five cassettes in an album)

—French, Quechua
The Good News According to Matthew (set of three cassettes) —Korean

The Good News According to Mark (set of two cassettes) —Korean

The Good News According to Luke (set of three cassettes) —Korean

The Good News According to John (set of two cassettes) —Korean

■ New Braille Publications Available:
2000 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses (three volumes) —Grade-two English

Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23; one volume) —Grade-two English; Grade-one Spanish

Jesus Christ—Who Is He? (Tract No. 24; one volume) —Grade-two English; Grade-one Spanish

Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy! (three volumes) —Grade-two French; Grade-two German

Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy! (four volumes) —Grade-one French; Grade-one Italian

Please mark requests for Braille publications **ATTENTION: BRAILLE DESK**. Include name and address of the person who will use the Braille material.

■ New Videocassettes Available:
The Bible—Its Power in Your Life —Chinese (Cantonese), Chinese (Mandarin)

DECEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	135	121.0	101.4	53.1 4.5
Pios.	94,522	63.9	45.1	20.7 1.6
Aux. Pios.	20,568	48.9	36.7	13.4 0.9
Pubs.	826,047	8.9	7.9	3.4 0.3
TOTAL	941,272		Baptized: 2,199	

We are happy to report another new peak in regular pioneers! During each month since August, we have reported a new peak in the number of regular pioneers. The total of 94,522 regular pioneers reporting is an increase of 64 over the previous peak of 94,458 in November 1999.

Ask for Help

¹ The inspired words “hard to deal with” aptly describe our critical times. (2 Tim. 3:1) Hence, what can you do when you encounter difficult spiritual challenges that you may feel ill-equipped to face?

² Are you willing to talk to a spiritually mature member of the congregation? Some might hesitate to do so because of being embarrassed, not wanting to impose, or doubting that anyone can really help. Granted, we should strive to care for our personal responsibilities the best we can, but we should always feel free to seek help in matters involving our spiritual well-being.—Gal. 6:2, 5.

³ **Where to Begin:** You may want to approach your book study conductor and ask if you

can work with him in field service. This will give you an opportunity to tell him about your desire to grow spiritually. If he is a ministerial servant, let him know of your need for spiritual help and he will ask the elders to assist you. Or you may approach any of the elders about matters of concern to you.

⁴ What kind of help do you need? Has something dampened your zeal? Are you a single parent trying to keep your children close to the congregation? Are you an elderly person who needs assistance? Or is some problem discouraging you? Dealing with our critical times may be hard—but not impossible. Help is available.

⁵ **How Older Men Help:** The elders genuinely care. They

will listen to your concerns. If other publishers are confronted with similar obstacles, the elders will take this into account as they shepherd and teach the congregation. As “examples to the flock,” they remain ready to work alongside you with joy. (1 Pet. 5:3) Listening to these experienced brothers as they reason on Bible principles can improve your ministry and assist you in your personal life.—2 Tim. 3:16, 17.

⁶ Jesus has bestowed on us many “gifts consisting of men.” (Eph. 4:8, ftn.) This means that the elders are at your service. They are available to help you. They, in effect, “belong to you.” (1 Cor. 3:21-23) So rather than holding back, speak up. Ask for the help you need.

Studying Daniel's Prophecy

¹ Beginning the week of April 17, we will study *Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!* in the Congregation Book Study. Many have already read this fascinating book, but now we have the opportunity to enjoy the benefits that come from a group discussion of the material. All publishers, interested ones, and children are invited, yes, encouraged, to be present each week for this in-depth study of the Bible book of Daniel.—Deut. 31:12, 13.

² **Study Schedule and Instructions:** The complete study schedule for the *Daniel's Prophecy* book is set out in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Be sure to keep a copy with your study book. The schedule shows the chapter and paragraphs from the book as well as the verses from Daniel that will

be discussed in each week's session. The footnotes explain how and when some of the material in the book will be considered. At the conclusion of each weekly study, the conductor is encouraged to review with the group the specific verses from Daniel that are listed on the schedule for that week. As time permits, the verses may be read and commented on. Some verses will overlap from one week to another because of an ongoing consideration of their application.

³ **Prepare for a Thorough Study:** An effort has been made to allow sufficient time each week for an unhurried discussion of the assigned material. Four lessons are rather short. Hence, at the end of the study for the week of June 5, the conductor may include a re-

view of Daniel 2:1-40. For the week of June 26, he may review Daniel 3:1-30. The week of September 4 should include a thorough discussion of the illustrations and scriptures on page 139. The chart on pages 188 and 189 should be discussed at the study for the week of October 2.

⁴ Prepare well for the study each week, and enjoy participating in it. Appreciate your privilege of associating with Jehovah's visible organization and benefiting from the insight and understanding provided by his faithful anointed ones. (Dan. 12:3, 4) Kindly encourage others to attend the book study regularly. May all of us pay attention to God's prophetic word as revealed in the awe-inspiring book of Daniel.—Heb. 10:23-25; 2 Pet. 1:19.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

April 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 4/00 Vol. 43, No. 4

Are You Responding to Christ's Love?

¹ Reflecting on his Master's life course, the apostle John wrote: "Jesus, having loved his own that were in the world, loved them to the end." (John 13:1) During this Memorial season, our thoughts turn to the greatest expression of Christ's love. We can respond to that love by exercising faith in the ransom, by having a zealous share in the preaching work and, like Jesus, by enduring "to the end."—Matt. 24:13; 28:19, 20; John 3:16. *we do our PART*

² **Responding to Christ's Love:** Jesus was very active in the final week of his earthly life. (Matt. 21:23; 23:1; 24:3) As imitators of Christ, we too are moved by love to 'exert ourselves vigorously' in Jehovah's service. (Luke 13:24) Can you take advantage of the ar-

~~rangements for added witness-~~ing activity during April by increasing the time that you spend in the ministry?

³ This year the Lord's Evening Meal falls on Wednesday evening, April 19. How many will be on hand for this significant occasion? To a large extent, that depends on us. Have you made a list of those you plan to invite—your Bible students and other interested ones, relatives, business acquaintances, and schoolmates? Have you contacted them and extended a heartfelt invitation? Will you remind them a few days before the Memorial? Do they need your assistance in getting there? The elders are also inviting any who have become inactive in the ministry. The fact

that the Memorial will be held on a weeknight rather than on the weekend makes it no less important for all to attend.

⁴ **Come Prepared:** It is vital for us to be prepared and to be in the proper frame of mind when we attend the Memorial. Paul exhorted fellow believers to keep in mind the seriousness of the occasion. (1 Cor. 11:20-26) You might read chapters 13 to 17 of John's Gospel during your family Bible study and then have each family member relate what Jesus' sacrifice means to him. Do not forget to do the daily Bible reading for the week of the Memorial as well!

⁵ Our love for Christ runs deep, and it extends far beyond April 19. We are determined to demonstrate our love for him forever! This year's Memorial celebration will help us to strengthen that resolve.²

Do You Have the Spirit of Self-Sacrifice?

¹ Appreciation for what Jesus Christ unselfishly accomplished for mankind should move all of us to use our abilities, energies, and strengths in a self-sacrificing way. The Scriptures entreat: "Present your bodies as a sacrifice living, holy, acceptable to God, a sacred service." (Rom. 12:1) Periodic self-examination will help you to see if you are showing that sort of spirit as fully as your personal circumstances allow.

² **In the Pursuit of Bible Knowledge:** Have you set aside time for personal Bible reading and study on a regular basis? Do you hold to that schedule? Is it your routine to prepare well for congregation meetings? If you are a family

Making Way.
head, do you have a regular Bible study with your household? Doing these things may require sacrificing time spent in front of the television or at the computer or in other pursuits. However, what a small sacrifice to make, knowing that time spent with God's Word will help lead you to everlasting life!—John 17:3.

³ **In the Training of Your Children:** The best time to begin learning a course of self-sacrifice is in childhood. Teach your children that while there is a time for play, there must also be a time for work and for theocratic activities. (Eph. 6:4) Give them some useful work to do around the house. Establish a regular schedule to have a share in the min-

istry with them. Reinforce your instruction with your own good example.

⁴ **In Congregational Activities:** A congregation is enriched when everyone in it makes willing sacrifices to accomplish things for the common good. (Heb. 13:16) Is it possible for you to spend more time in the Kingdom-preaching and disciple-making work? Can you volunteer to assist the sick or the elderly, perhaps helping them with transportation to the meetings?

⁵ Prior to making the ultimate sacrifice of his human life, Jesus counseled his disciples to focus their eyes on Kingdom interests, making everything else in life secondary. (Matt. 6:33) Pursuing such a spirit of self-sacrifice will bring us the greater happiness as we continue serving Jehovah with rejoicing.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting April 10

Song 122

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Do not forget the special public talk on April 16, entitled "Why Mankind Needs a Ransom." Encourage all to follow the Memorial Bible reading scheduled for April 14-19, as outlined in *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2000*. Review "Memorial Reminders," on page 4 of the insert.

15 min: "Are You Responding to Christ's Love?" Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Include thoughts from May 1, 1998, *Watchtower*, pages 16-17, paragraphs 12-13. Encourage everyone to put forth a special effort to invite people to the Memorial.

20 min: "April—A Time to Be Zealous for Fine Works!" Questions and answers. An enthusiastic discussion of what we desire to accomplish in April. Use concluding three or four minutes to review "Zeal That Stirs Up the Majority."

Song 199 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 17

Song 25

13 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Only two weekends are left in April, so encourage everyone to participate in the ministry before the month ends. Demonstrate a brief magazine presentation using the current issues. Since we may be obliged to respond to people who want us to share in their Easter customs, review what is stated in the *Reasoning* book, pages 179-80.

16 min: "Do You Have the Spirit of Self-Sacrifice?" Questions and answers. We need to establish priorities, putting first things first. It takes initiative and self-control to persist in doing what will benefit us spiritually. Explain what we can learn from Jesus' example.—See *Insight*, Volume 2, page 68, paragraphs 3-5.

16 min: Place Magazines Where They Will Do the Most Good. Talk, with audience participation. Review suggestions in the January 8, 1995, *Awake!*, pages 22-4. Explain why it is good to search out people who are likely to respond to specialized articles appear-

ing in the magazines. Consider examples from past issues and the types of individuals, businesses, or organizations that the articles might have appealed to in the local territory. Invite audience to relate experiences showing how they got good results using this method.

Song 71 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting April 24

Song 137

10 min: Local announcements. Announce the congregation's Memorial attendance. Invite audience to relate expressions made by those who attended for the first time.

17 min: Help New Ones Attend Meetings. A talk based on the *Knowledge* book, pages 161-3, paragraphs 5-8. After studying for a time, it is essential that new ones start coming to meetings. Getting them to attend can be a challenge. What can you do to motivate them? Those who are conducting studies should take the time to review this material in the *Knowledge* book with their students and then make definite arrangements to assist them to join us in true worship.

18 min: "Are You a Regular Kingdom Proclaimer?" Talk and audience discussion handled by the secretary. Explain why we report our field service activity. (See *Our Ministry*, pages 106-8.) Relate some of the problems that develop when we fail to turn in our reports promptly. Invite audience to tell what they do to make sure that they turn their reports in on time. Point out how Congregation Book Study conductors can help. There is only one weekend left in April, so emphasize the importance of everyone's sharing in service and reporting the activity at the end of the month.

Song 200 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 1

Song 213

12 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for April. Congregation Book Study conductors should check with everyone in their group so that all reports can be tallied by May 6. Review Question Box, making local application.

15 min: Local needs.

18 min: "Make Sure That You Go Back!" Audience discussion. Consider the reasons why we may fail to make return visits. Explain why accurate notes and a willingness to return are important. Suggest setting aside some time each week to make return visits. Review what is stated in *Our Ministry* book, pages 88-9. Relate experience reported in *1995 Yearbook*, page 45.—1 Cor. 3:6, 7.

Song 68 and concluding prayer.

Zeal That Stirs Up the Majority

The apostle Paul commended the Corinthians because their zeal for a good work had "stirred up the majority" of their fellow Christians. (2 Cor. 9:2) Often, an individual, a family, a book study group, or an entire congregation can have a similar effect by the zealous share they have in the evangelizing work. Here are some ways that you may be able to show zeal for the ministry.

- Reserve your Saturdays for Magazine Day activity.

- Participate in some field service on Sundays.

- Use longer daylight hours to share in evening witnessing.

- Take part in any special witnessing days that are arranged.

- Use a holiday from work or school to go in service.

- Support the ministry during the circuit overseer's visit.

- Auxiliary pioneer one or more months during the year.

- Adjust your circumstances to regular pioneer if possible.

See the *2000 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses*, pages 17-19.

April—A Time to Be Zealous for Fine Works!

¹ As a hurricane nears a populated area, the need to warn people of the impending danger becomes urgent. The closer the hurricane comes, the more emphatic the warnings must be. Why? Because lives are at stake! Some people may not have heard previous warnings. Others may have heard but neglected to take action. The same is true of the divine warning that we have been commissioned to sound before “the storm wind” of God’s righteous anger blows away all vestiges of this wicked world. (Prov. 10:25) The eternal lives of billions of people are at stake! The warning must be sounded. We must be “zealous for fine works.”—Titus 2:11-14.

² For decades, Jehovah’s people have been motivated to make the Memorial season a time for special zeal in the ministry. In the spring of 1939, the *Informant*, forerunner of *Our Kingdom Ministry*, provided this encouragement: “With spring coming on, and good weather, we should expect the hours in the field to be doubled by [congregation] publishers, and the pioneers’ time materially increased. April is a five-Sunday month. It has also five Saturdays. Make every Saturday and Sunday during April . . . a time of special witnessing.” That was an ambitious goal set for the brothers 60 years ago! This year, just as in 1939, the month of April has five full weekends. What are your plans this month? What notations have you made on your calendar for April 2000? Plan to have a meaningful share in fine works with the rest of Jehovah’s people during this special month of accelerated spiritual activity.

³ **What We Hope to Accomplish:** The most important day of the year 2000 falls in this month. It is April 19, the anniversary of Jesus’ death. Let us make a special effort to *invite as many people as possible to the Memorial*. As was suggested last month, make a list of all potential Memorial attenders and check that none are overlooked. Those invited should include any inactive publishers, Bible students, return visits, those who previously studied, work associates, schoolmates, neighbors, relatives, and other acquaintances. Do those who want to attend

have transportation? If not, can you lovingly assist? On the night of the Memorial, all of us will have the privilege of making those who attend feel welcome. After the Memorial, we can follow up with additional spiritual assistance for such interested ones.

⁴ Being “zealous for fine works” during the days before and after the Memorial is a fine way to show Jehovah that we truly appreciate all that he has done for us. Longer daylight hours and better weather in most areas will enable many of us to *increase our efforts in the evangelizing activity*. If you are auxiliary pioneering, you will want to do your best to spend 50 hours or more in the ministry. (Matt. 5:37) Stick closely to the schedule you worked out at the start of the month. (Eccl. 3:1; 1 Cor. 14:40) May the rest of us do what we can to extend a supportive hand to all the pioneers, both by encouraging them and by working with them in the field. (Compare 2 Kings 10:15, 16.) If we zealously sow during April, we can expect great joy and a blessing from Jehovah. (Mal. 3:10) Perhaps this will serve as a stepping-stone to continuous auxiliary pioneering or to regular pioneering. May the spiritual momentum that we gain in April carry over into succeeding months as we continue to be regular Kingdom publishers.

⁵ Undoubtedly, thousands of Jehovah’s people this month will *start more home Bible studies*. Would you like to start one? Pray specifically for a study, and work in harmony with your prayers. You can be sure that Jehovah will appreciate your humble requests for help in finding an honesthearted person to teach.—1 John 3:22.

⁶ Here is a field-tested approach that has been successfully used to start conversations. You begin by asking: “Do you think that all the violence in public schools is the result of demonic activity, or does it come from a lack of parental training?” Allow for a response. If the person says “demonic activity,” read Revelation 12:9, 12, and highlight the Devil’s role in promoting turmoil in the world. Then open the *Require* brochure to

lesson 4, and ask if the person ever wondered where the Devil came from. Proceed to read and discuss the first two paragraphs. If the person chooses "a lack of parental training" as the reason for violence in the schools, read 2 Timothy 3:1-3 and point out the traits that evidently contribute to this problem. Then open the *Require* brochure to lesson 8, read paragraph 5, and continue the discussion. If you can make an appointment to return, you may be well on your way to having a regular Bible study with the person. During a subsequent visit, ask him if he knows anyone else who might be interested in hearing what he is learning.

⁷ Another way to be "zealous for fine works" during April is to *share in various avenues of preaching*. Have you been thinking about witnessing in a park or a parking lot? At a bus stop or a train station? Or would you like to try witnessing by telephone, on the street, or in business territory? Why not turn those thoughts into reality this month? Jehovah will help you muster up the necessary boldness. (Acts 4:31; 1 Thess. 2:2b) Perhaps you can make an appointment to work with a pioneer or a publisher who is experienced in these facets of the ministry.

⁸ Anyone desirous of increasing his share in the witness work will want to *participate in informal witnessing*. Often all it takes is engaging a person in a friendly conversa-

tion. Simply raise a subject of common interest, perhaps using the approach highlighted in paragraph 6. Strive to make good use of even small increments of time that otherwise would be lost. We do not discard nickels, dimes, or quarters just because they are not full dollars. Why not profitably use even five minutes, ten minutes, or a quarter of an hour witnessing informally?

⁹ **A Time for Reflection:** Think back to the powerful points that were made in the drama at the "God's Prophetic Word" District Convention last year. The drama, entitled *Appreciating Our Spiritual Heritage*, made us think carefully about the contrast between Jacob and Esau. Esau said that like Jacob, he had interest in spiritual things, but Esau's works did not show it. (Gen. 25:29-34) What a powerful warning for us! Like Jacob, let us be ready to struggle, even wrestle, for Jehovah's blessing. (Gen. 32:24-29) Why not use April and all ensuing months to renew our zeal, never taking our wonderful spiritual heritage for granted?

¹⁰ "The great day of Jehovah is near. It is near, and there is a hurrying of it very much." (Zeph. 1:14) The Kingdom good news must be sounded forth. Lives are at stake! May this month prove to be especially blessed for all of Jehovah's people as we unitedly show that we are "zealous for fine works."

Memorial Reminders

The Memorial observance this year falls on Wednesday, April 19. The elders should give attention to the following matters:

- In setting the time for the meeting, make sure that the emblems will not be passed until after sundown.

- Everyone, including the speaker, should be informed of the exact time and location of the observance.

- The appropriate type of bread and wine should be obtained and made ready.—See the February 15, 1985, *Watchtower*, page 19.

- Plates, glasses, and a suitable table and tablecloth should be brought to the hall and put in place in advance.

- The Kingdom Hall or other place of

meeting should be thoroughly cleaned ahead of time.

- Attendants and servers should be selected and instructed in advance about their duties and the proper procedure.

- Arrangements should be made to serve any of the anointed who are infirm and unable to be present.

- When more than one congregation is scheduled to use the same Kingdom Hall, there should be good coordination among congregations so as to avoid unnecessary congestion in the lobby or entryway, on the public sidewalks, and in the parking lot.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of January 3 to April 17, 2000. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. Sometimes we must wait to receive Jehovah's blessings, since Jehovah knows our situation and provides for each need when it will do us the most good. (Ps. 145:16; Jas. 1:17) [w98 1/1 p. 23 par. 6]
2. The presence of the ark of the covenant alone did not guarantee success for the Israelites. Jehovah's blessings depended on the spiritual standing and faithful obedience of those possessing the ark. (Josh., chap. 7) [Weekly Bible reading; see *it-1* p. 167 par. 2.]
3. Today we are nourished spiritually by simply reading Jehovah's utterances. (Deut. 8:3) [Weekly Bible reading; see w85 6/15 p. 17 pars. 15, 17.]
4. The principle highlighted in the Mosaic Law at Deuteronomy 23:20 shows that it is unloving for a Christian to charge interest when lending money. [Weekly Bible reading; see *it-1* p. 1212 pars. 5-6; *it-2* p. 259 par. 12; w86 10/15 p. 12 par. 9.]
5. The optimistic report of Joshua and Caleb was based on their firm belief in the strength and determination of the Israelites to overcome any obstacles that blocked their taking of the Promised Land. (Num. 13:30) [w98 2/1 p. 5 par. 4]
6. In referring to "the gift" in 1 Timothy, Paul was reminding Timothy of his anointing with holy spirit and the heavenly reward that awaited him. (1 Tim. 4:14) [w98 2/15 p. 25 par. 1]
7. The book of Joshua does not provide any vital link in the record leading down to the production of the Kingdom Seed. [*si* p. 46 par. 24]
8. The book of Judges is a record of men selected and appointed by Israel to rule the

nation before the time period of the kings. [*si* p. 46 par. 2]

9. Gideon's request, as described at Judges 6:37-39, shows that he was being overly cautious and suspicious. [Weekly Bible reading; see w88 4/1 p. 30 par. 6.]
10. By instructing his disciples 'not to embrace anybody in greeting along the road,' Jesus was emphasizing the urgency of the preaching work and the need to give full attention to this all-important assignment. (Luke 10:4) [w98 3/1 p. 30 par. 5]

Answer the following questions:

11. Why is it important that Jehovah's words prove to be on the hearts of parents? (Deut. 6:5, 6) [Weekly Bible reading; see w98 6/1 p. 20 par. 4.]
12. How can a family head apply the principle noted at Deuteronomy 11:18, 19? [Weekly Bible reading; see *fy* p. 70 par. 14.]
13. What Scriptural indication is there that the runaway slave Onesimus had evidently been with the apostle Paul for a while before Paul wrote to Philemon? [w98 1/15 p. 30 par. 2]
14. When we see injustices or experience them ourselves, what can we do to avoid developing a despondent or pessimistic attitude? [w98 2/1 p. 6 pars. 2-3]
15. How did Joshua and Gideon show high regard for God's law? (Deut. 20:8, 15-18) [*si* p. 41 par. 32]
16. How do the events described at Joshua 10:10-14 parallel what can be expected at Armageddon? [Weekly Bible reading; see w86 12/15 p. 23 par. 12-p. 24 par. 14.]
17. Name three benefits of sincere praise for worthy conduct. (Compare Proverbs 15:23.) [w98 2/1 p. 31 pars. 5-6]

18. In harmony with Joshua 20:4, how does one flee to the antitypical city of refuge? [Weekly Bible reading; see w86 12/15 p. 24 par. 16.]
19. How does Judges 5:31 indicate that Judge Barak's victory over the superior forces of Sisera at the torrent valley of Kishon has significant meaning for our day? [Weekly Bible reading; see w86 2/15 p. 21 par. 4.]
20. How can we show regard for the principle behind the expression "they kept standing each one in his place," as recorded at Judges 7:21? [Weekly Bible reading; see w82 6/1 p. 25 par. 17.]

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. To experience more fully the blessing of Jehovah, we must continue to _____ and petition Jehovah to help us to _____ the teachings in his inspired Word. (1 Tim. 4:8, 9) [w98 1/1 p. 24 par. 6]
22. Flattery is so displeasing to Jehovah because it is motivated by _____, it is neither _____ nor _____, and above all, it is _____. [w98 2/1 p. 30 pars. 2-3]
23. The name Joshua means "_____", and he was a prophetic type of _____. [si p. 42 par. 5]
24. In harmony with Jesus' illustration at Matthew 7:24-27, discreet parents can help their children stand up to stormlike pressures by giving them _____ that will help them remain _____. [w98 2/15 p. 9 par. 1]
25. The historical record in the book of Judges embraces the general time period from the death of _____ down to the time of _____, covering about _____ years. [si p. 47 par. 5]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. Taking measures concerning the disposition of one's property in case of death is a (congregation matter; personal matter; requirement for true Christians). (Gal. 6:5) [w98 1/15 p. 19 par. 6]
27. Paul encouraged Philemon to receive (Onam; Onesiphorus; Onesimus) kindly

but did not use apostolic authority to command him to do so or to free his slave. (Philem. 21) [w98 1/15 p. 31 par. 1]

28. A serious shortcoming that is implied in the account of the lepers who were cured by Jesus is their (lack of faith; disobedience; ingratitude). (Luke 17:11-19) [w98 2/15 p. 5 par. 1]
29. Since God approved of Rahab's course, her words to the men of Jericho who were pursuing the Israelite spies indicate that (whether to lie is a personal decision; one is not obligated to divulge truthful information to those not entitled to it; she had not yet changed all her worldly ways). (Josh. 2:3-5; compare Romans 14:4.) [Weekly Bible reading; see w93 12/15 p. 25 par. 1.]
30. As recorded at John 13:5, the object lesson Jesus gave highlights the quality of (kindness; empathy; humility), which makes one disposed to perform the lowliest of tasks in behalf of others. [w98 3/15 p. 7 par. 6]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Deut. 7:3, 4; 17:7; 25:11, 12; 28:3; Jer. 15:20

31. The Creator's high regard for the reproductive organs should influence the decision a Christian makes regarding an appropriate method of family planning. [Weekly Bible reading; see w99 6/15 p. 28 pars. 1-4.]
32. We can have confidence in Jehovah's support as we fulfill our commission to preach the good news of God's Kingdom. [w98 3/1 p. 28 par. 1]
33. Heeding the Bible's warning spares us the painful consequences that often result when a Christian yokes himself with an unbeliever. [Weekly Bible reading; see w89 11/1 p. 20 par. 11.]
34. Enjoying God's blessings does not depend on where we may live or serve or what assignment we may have in God's service. [Weekly Bible reading; see w96 6/15 p. 15 par. 15.]
35. As authority for his instructions in 1 Corinthians chapter 5 on disfellowshipping, Paul quotes Jehovah's Law. [Weekly Bible reading; see si p. 213 par. 24.]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ **Literature offer for April and May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower and Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for interested people, and endeavor to start home Bible studies. **June:** *What Does God Require of Us?* Concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You?*, *Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate.

■ Beginning in April, district convention lapel badge cards for 2000 in Armenian, Chinese, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese will automatically be included with literature shipments. It will not be necessary to request these. Based on the size of each congregation, cards will be shipped in lots of 25. If additional badge cards are needed by the congregations, these

should be requested on a Literature Request Form (S-14). It is necessary to request plastic badge card holders for any in the congregation who desire them.

■ The Society has a supply of ENGLISH bound volumes of *The Watchtower* for the years 1951 to 1955, 1987, 1995, and 1996, and *Awake!* for the years 1987 and 1989. Any publishers or new congregations that desire these publications may now request them through the congregation literature servant.

■ As announced in *Our Kingdom Ministry* of March 2000, *Watchtower Library—1999 Edition* on CD-ROM is now being produced in nine languages. Please keep in mind that this is not a product for public distribution, for school libraries, or for ones who merely express interest in Jehovah's Witnesses. *Watchtower Library—1999* is a provision for members of the congregation and is made available only through the congregation. Until compact discs are available and shipments are made, they will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists.

■ **New Publications Available:**
A Book for All People —Estonian
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? —Chinese
Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) —Cebuano
Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15) —Bengali, Romyany (Macedonia)

New World Translation of the Christian Greek Scriptures —Arabic
What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe? (Tract No. 14) —Bengali
What Does God Require of Us?

—Efik, Igbo, Trukese
What Happens to Us When We Die?

—Estonian
Why You Can Trust the Bible (Tract No. 13) —Bengali

■ **New Audiocassettes Available:**
Families—Make Daily Bible Reading Your Way of Life! (Drama, single cassette) —Spanish

My Book of Bible Stories (six cassettes in an album) —Samoan

Preserving Life in Time of Famine (Drama, single cassette)

—Portuguese
The Good News According to John

—Korean
 ■ **New Videocassettes Available:**
Noah—He Walked With God

—Romanian
The Bible—Its Power in Your Life

—Dutch, Italian

JANUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	147	120.7	94.7	57.5 4.6
Pios.	93,895	62.0	40.8	20.8 1.6
Aux. Pios.	18,874	48.3	34.2	13.8 0.9
Pubs.	828,691	8.8	7.4	3.4 0.3
TOTAL	941,607		Baptized: 1,823	

QUESTION BOX

■ Who should receive a district convention lapel badge card?

Convention lapel badge cards can be very helpful in identifying our brothers and in advertising the convention. However, they should not be distributed indiscriminately. They identify the wearer as being in good standing with a particular congregation of Jehovah's Witnesses.

The card has space for the name of the individual as well as the name of the congregation. Therefore, the person would have to be associated to a reasonable extent with the named congregation. The Society sends a supply of cards to each congregation. It would be appropriate to give a card to each baptized and unbaptized publisher. Also, children and others who regu-

larly attend congregation meetings and who are making progress toward sharing in the field ministry may receive one. It would not be proper to give a convention lapel badge card to a disfellowshipped person.

When the cards are made available, the elders should see that they are distributed in harmony with these guidelines.

Are You a Regular Kingdom Proclaimer?

¹ We all rejoiced upon learning that the United States reached an all-time peak of 1,040,283 publishers in August 1998. Truly a united and determined effort! Evidently in the months that followed, some of these publishers have had difficulty being *regular* Kingdom proclaimers, for the monthly average ever since has been about 940,000. This indicates that 1 publisher in 12 has not reported sharing in the ministry *every* month. We believe that the following encouragement can help to remedy the situation.

² **Appreciate the Privilege:** Our appreciation should run deep for the privilege we have to share the Kingdom good news with others. This activity makes Jehovah's heart glad and helps

honesthearted ones to learn the way to life. (Prov. 27:11; 1 Tim. 4:16) Witnessing regularly builds up our experience in the ministry and results in a feeling of joy and accomplishment.

³ **Report the Activity:** Some who share in field service neglect to report their activity on time. Never should we feel that our effort was not worth reporting. (Compare Mark 12:41-44.) By all means, we should report what we have done! Having a system at home, such as using a calendar, for recording time spent in the ministry will serve as a constant reminder to make an accurate report promptly at the end of each month.

⁴ **Give the Help Needed:** Local arrangements may have to be improved for assisting those

who need help in having a consistent share in the ministry. The congregation secretary and book study conductors should arrange for experienced publishers to lend a helping hand. If you have children or other Bible students who are unbaptized publishers, train them to report their activity every month.

⁵ Recall the life story, "Grateful for a Long Life in Jehovah's Service," in the October 1, 1997, *Watchtower*. Sister Ottilie Mydland of Norway became a regular publisher of the good news prior to her baptism in 1921. Seventy-six years later, at age 99, she said: "I am glad that it is still possible for me to be a regular publisher." What a marvelous attitude for all of Jehovah's servants to imitate!

Make Sure That You Go Back!

¹ "What a good conversation! I'll have to remember to make a return visit there." Have you ever said those words and later forgotten where the person lives? If so, you know that the only way you can make sure that you go back is to put it in writing.

² **Write It All Down:** While a conversation with an interested person is still fresh in your mind, take a moment to write down all the pertinent information about the call. Note the person's name and how you will recognize him. Put down his address, but do not guess at it—check to be sure that what you write is correct. Note the subject you talked about, any scriptures that you read, and what literature was placed.

³ If you left the person with a question to be answered on the next call, write it down. Did you

learn something about the person, his family, or his religion? If so, make a notation of this. Then the next time you call, your making mention of it will demonstrate your personal interest in the individual. Finally, include the day and time that you made the initial call and when you said you would return. By making good notes, you will have clear reminders and will be less likely to forget your promise to return.—1 Tim. 1:12.

⁴ Once your record is complete, put it with the rest of your field service equipment—book bag, Bible, *Reasoning* book, and literature—so that it will always be handy. It is best to record not-at-homes on house-to-house records that are separate from those that you use to make note of your return visits. Of

course, regardless of the work you put into keeping track of return visits, the important thing is to make sure that you go back!

⁵ **Think About the Person:** When preparing for the ministry, review your return visit notes. Give thought to each individual and what approach might best be used when making the next call. Think of how to develop the person's interest into a home Bible study. Such planning can increase your productivity as a minister of the good news and, hence, your personal joy.—Prov. 21:5a.

⁶ So the next time you find a listening ear, do not reason that you can easily remember the call. Instead, write it down, review your notes, keep thinking about the person, and then make sure that you go back!

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

May 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 5/00 Vol. 43, No. 5

"Keep Awake"

¹ After describing the momentous events that would mark the last days of this system of things, Jesus urged his disciples to "keep awake." (Mark 13:33) Why must Christians keep awake? Because we are living in the most perilous time in human history. We cannot afford to become spiritually drowsy. That would result in our failing to appreciate the work that Jehovah has given us to do in this time of the end. What work is that?

² Jehovah is having his people proclaim throughout the earth the good news about his Kingdom—the only hope for mankind. Our working closely with God's organization identifies us as true Christians, who are mindful of the times and of

Have important work?
⁽²⁾ the need to help others hear the "sayings of everlasting life." (John 6:68) By zealously sharing in this all-important work, we give evidence of being spiritually awake.

³ **Moved to Preach:** As Witnesses of Jehovah, we should be positive about our ministry. Love for God and neighbor moves us personally to share in the preaching work. (1 Cor. 9:16, 17) Doing so, we will save ourselves as well as those who listen to us. (1 Tim. 4:16) Let it be our determination to share as regularly as possible and as long as necessary in preaching about the best government that mankind could ever have—God's Kingdom! *What is our message?*

⁴ The urgency of our ministry is impressed upon us by an important fact—the outbreak of the great tribulation will come while we are still engaged in this work. Our not knowing the day and hour requires that we keep awake and ready all the time, prayerfully relying on Jehovah. (Eph. 6:18) The scope of the preaching activity continues to expand. But one day soon, the greatest witness work in human history will reach a climax.

⁵ Faithfully follow the command of Jesus to "keep awake." This is more critical now than ever before. May we respond with a sense of urgency. Today and every day, let us remain spiritually sober, alert, and active in Jehovah's service. Yes, may we "stay awake and keep our senses."—1 Thess. 5:6-8 *1-6*

A Privilege Available to Younger Ones

¹ Many who are now parents fondly recall a privilege they enjoyed as children growing up in the truth—Magazine Day activity. That work was instituted in all congregations in 1949. One day a week, everyone was to concentrate on distributing *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* on the streets, from house to house, from store to store, and in other ways. Younger publishers especially looked forward to participating in this work because it gave them an opportunity to share in the same activity as the adults in the congregation. Was this true of you when you were a child?

² **Involve Your Children:** Very young children who are not ready to initiate a Scriptural

discussion at the door can still offer magazines. It requires learning only a simple presentation of a few short sentences. A brief comment, perhaps on the cover illustration, may be sufficient. Many householders readily accept the journals from our youngsters, often commenting favorably about the sincerity and good conduct of these youths. With a little help, this service is something children can do very well, making a valuable contribution in spreading the Kingdom message. Of course, as children grow older, their parents will want to help them continue to make progress in developing their witnessing skills.

³ Manuel began preaching from door to door when he

was three years old. His parents taught him to memorize a brief presentation. He zealously preaches alongside them, placing many magazines, brochures, and tracts. He also witnesses informally. On one occasion when his parents took him to a park for recreation, he took the initiative to place some tracts with other people who were there. Although he is still very young, Manuel's enthusiasm for the ministry is a source of real encouragement to his parents and to the entire congregation.—Prov. 22:6.

⁴ Every Saturday is designated as "Magazine Day" on the 2000 *Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses*. Parents, we recommend that you take a renewed interest in this work, helping your children to share as regularly as possible in this privilege of service.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

NOTE: *Our Kingdom Ministry* will schedule a Service Meeting for each week during the summer months. Congregations may make adjustments as needed to allow for attending the "Doers of God's Word" District Convention. Where appropriate, use 15 minutes on the last Service Meeting before attending the convention to review pointed counsel from this month's insert. Encourage everyone to take a few minutes to look at the printed program before each morning and afternoon session begins and anticipate what might be discussed. This will make it easier to focus attention on the program and take brief but meaningful notes. Two to four weeks following the convention, a 30-minute review of program highlights is to be scheduled on the Service Meeting. At that time, each one will be prepared to volunteer a brief comment when invited to do so by three qualified brothers assigned to handle this part. Such comments may express how what was learned at the convention applies to one's own life and in one's field ministry. One or two selected, brief experiences may be related. Good preparation by all is the key to making this Service Meeting part both interesting and instructive.

Week Starting May 8

Song 125

15 min: Local announcements and selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. An elder will carefully review the above note regarding Service Meeting adjustments.

15 min: "Do You Appreciate Sacred Things?" Talk by an elder. Emphasize the importance of attending all three days of the district convention.

15 min: "Let All Your Affairs Take Place With Love." Question-and-answer discussion. Relate some of the difficulties that result when individuals fail to abide by directions provided to obtain rooming accommodations.

Song 201 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 15

Song 134

13 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

16 min: "Be Attentive to Sacred Pronouncements." Questions and answers. Stress the reasons why all of us should be in our seats when each session begins.

16 min: "Maintain Fine Conduct That Glorifies God." An elder discusses article with a family group. They review what they need to do to maintain orderliness, good manners, cleanliness, and exemplary appearance and conduct in public places.

Song 203 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 22

Song 36

12 min: Local announcements. Review Question Box.

20 min: "Keep Awake." Question-and-answer discussion. Explain why it is urgent that we stay awake spiritually even though we do not know the day and hour.—See the November 1, 1995, *Watchtower*, page 20.

13 min: What Are Your Plans for the Summer? A family group discusses what they will do during the summer months. They talk about attending all three days of the district convention and auxiliary pioneering one or more months. There also may be an opportunity to visit a scenic park or engage in some wholesome recreation. They all agree not to neglect their routine of theocratic activity.

Song 83 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting May 29

Song 135

12 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for May. Demonstrate a brief presentation of the literature offer for June. Show how to offer a Bible study, using lesson 13 in the *Require* brochure.

15 min: "Finding Joy in Your Sacred Service." A talk. Discuss reasons why we have cause for joy in our ministry.—See *Insight*, Volume 2, page 120.

18 min: Bible Reading That Is Rewarding. Talk and demonstration based on *School Guidebook*, pages 34-5, paragraphs 6-7. A standard Bible reading program, on which Bible highlights are based, is part of the Theocratic Ministry School curriculum. (December 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 7) Have a family group demonstrate how a family could have considered a portion of this week's reading for the school. They pick out one or two interesting points and do some additional research in the *Watch Tower Publications Index* or *Insight on the Scriptures*. Show how reading the Bible can become more meaningful, better equipping us to 'handle the word of the truth aright.'—2 Tim. 2:15.

Song 95 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 5

Song 37

5 min: Local announcements.

10 min: Local needs.

15 min: "A Privilege Available to Younger Ones." Talk and audience discussion. Relate experiences found in the December 1, 1996, *Watchtower*, page 13, paragraph 15. Invite young ones to recall how they have enjoyed distributing magazines. Have one or two youths demonstrate a simple door-to-door magazine presentation. Encourage parents to take their children with them in magazine work every week.

15 min: "'Tested as to Fitness'—How?" Talk by an elder. Review Scriptural arrangement for having ministerial servants in the congregation. (See *Insight*, Volume 2, page 409.) Show what qualifications they must meet for appointment. (See *Our Ministry* book, pages 55-7.) Point out ways ministerial servants can serve, and encourage more brothers to reach out for this privilege.

Song 82 and concluding prayer.

Do You Appreciate Sacred Things?

¹ When asked whether we appreciate sacred things, likely we would quickly answer yes! What are some of God's sacred provisions that we appreciate?

² How dearly we cherish the personal relationship we are allowed to have with our heavenly Father! He assures us that if we 'draw close to him, he will draw close to us.' (Jas. 4:8) Without the ransom sacrifice of Jesus Christ, no man could receive everlasting life. (John 3:16) Out of sincere gratefulness, we daily express in prayer our deep appreciation for this precious gift of God.

³ God's inspired Word, the Holy Bible, is also sacred to us, as is Jehovah's earthly organization. We show due appreciation for these provisions from Jehovah when we live by Bible principles, strengthen the bonds of brotherly love, carefully observe theocratic order, and cooperate with those taking the lead.—1 Pet. 1:22.

⁴ Through the faithful and discreet slave, we receive an abundance of spiritual food. That will be true this year at the "Doers of God's Word" District Convention. There we will receive vital instruction and enjoy warm fellowship that we urgently need. How can we show heartfelt appreciation for this sacred provision?

⁵ **Do Not Neglect Jehovah's House:** Nehemiah admonished those who had worked hard to rebuild Jerusalem's walls 'not to neglect the house of their God.' (Neh. 10:39) Today, Jehovah's "house" is his arrangement for worship. Our district conventions are part of that arrangement. Not to neglect this arrangement, we must be there in attendance and pay keen attention, showing Jehovah that we highly value his provisions. (Heb. 10:24, 25) What plans should we make now to show that we fully appreciate this sacred event?

⁶ **Attend All Three Days:** Every one of us should arrange to be in attendance for all three days of the convention. Are you planning to arrive early each day and to stay through the final prayer on Sunday? If so, rich blessings will be yours. Attending a convention may not always be easy. Adjusting your secular employment may require that you take a firm stand. Transportation may not always be con-

venient. But do not let these factors discourage you from attending the convention.

⁷ **Consider This Excellent Example:** On their way to a district convention last year, a group of brothers in an African country where there is civil unrest met up with a military group. The brothers were asked: "Who are you, and where are you going?" They answered: "We are Jehovah's Witnesses, and we are on our way to attend the district convention." One of the soldiers commented: "You Jehovah's Witnesses do not fear anything. Just go, and you will be able to hold your convention without any problem. However, be aware that you will meet many soldiers. Always walk in the middle of the road! If you see many people gathered, continue walking in the middle of the road!" They did so and arrived safely at the convention. These brothers were rewarded because they demonstrated their appreciation for sacred things.

⁸ Like our brothers in Africa, we also face challenges. But undoubtedly we can imitate their faith and be resolved to attend all sessions of our district convention. If adjustments are needed, look to Jehovah for guidance, knowing that he will bless our efforts to attend the entire program.

⁹ **Reap the Blessings:** We long for the Word of God, knowing that through it we may grow to salvation. (1 Pet. 2:2) Our attending the district convention and listening to the program will help each of us build stronger faith in that Word and thus be better able to withstand Satan's onslaughts. In doing so, we will show Jehovah and all onlookers that we fully appreciate sacred things and "are not the sort that shrink back . . . but the sort that have faith to the preserving alive of the soul."—Heb. 10:39; 12:16; Prov. 27:11.

¹⁰ We can look forward to Jehovah God's opening the floodgates of heaven and pouring out upon us copious showers of spiritual blessings. (Mal. 3:10) Make it your goal to be at the "Doers of God's Word" District Convention from the very opening of the program Friday morning to the closing prayer and "Amen!" Sunday afternoon. You will be glad you did!

“Let All Your Affairs Take Place With Love”

¹ “Your members are a true delight; conducting themselves with the utmost courtesy and respect.” That observation came from a convention and visitors bureau in a United States city that hosted one of our district conventions. It does our hearts good to receive such commendation for how we conduct ourselves in public. This shows that as a whole we are ‘letting all our affairs take place with love.’ (1 Cor. 16:14) At the same time, there are some matters of concern that if not addressed will detract from the good reputation of God’s people.

² **Problems With Rooming Reservations:** In each convention city, a Rooming Department is established to negotiate with hotels for reasonable rates so that everyone can afford to attend the convention. Our brothers expend considerable time and effort in our behalf. The managers of some hotels have at first hesitated to agree to a lower rate because of their negative experiences with other religious groups. When our Rooming Department has assured them that our delegates will cooperate with the hotel, many establishments have been happy to list rooms for us.

³ Last year several hotels complained that they had an unusually large number of last-minute cancellations. Why was this? Some delegates had booked rooms at two hotels but failed to send in a deposit to the first one or to notify them that they were canceling their reservation in favor of another hotel. In other cases, some brothers had reserved more than one room at a hotel, thinking that they were doing a favor for others who were traveling with them. But upon arrival they accepted only one room and canceled the rest. The hotels that were involved said that this had never happened before with Watchtower delegates.

⁴ This causes serious problems for the hotels and for our convention organization. Hotels reserve a certain number of rooms for our delegates and are led to believe that they have all been filled, only to find at convention time that they have empty rooms. If the problem persists, it may become a point of contention with these hotels when negotiating for future conventions. To avoid this, reservations are to be made only for hotel rooms that will definitely be used. Additionally, one night’s deposit must

be made to guarantee each room reserved. Doing so will also hold the room for late arrival. With this in mind, have you already sent your deposit to the hotel where you are booked to stay?

⁵ Some of the hotels offering a complimentary breakfast have complained that our brothers are abusing the arrangement by taking large amounts of food items with them even after they have eaten at the hotel. When a hotel provides food in the morning for its guests, it is to be regarded as what it is—a complimentary breakfast for those who are staying there. It is not intended that we take these food items with us to eat later or to share with friends at the convention. If we abuse this provision, it could result in the hotel’s canceling this service, wanting higher room rates, or refusing to negotiate with us in the future.

⁶ **Working What Is Good Toward All:** Good manners and exemplary conduct are motivated by love for Jehovah and for our neighbors. (Matt. 22:37-39; Jas. 3:13) The Bible urges us to be loving and considerate toward all people. (Gal. 6:10) That principle certainly applies when we stay at hotels. An unwillingness to cooperate taints our reputation, endangers our arrangement to get reduced rates, and creates hard feelings among brothers. If a hotel decides no longer to offer good rates, others attending the convention in that city may be seriously affected, especially if they are unable to afford a higher room rate.

⁷ When a choice room is reserved in advance and canceled at the last minute, it means that another brother was deprived of having it when he attempted to make a reservation. This may require that he travel farther or accept less desirable accommodations. Is that loving or considerate? How much better to show love and work what is good toward others by having their best interests in mind rather than our own!—Matt. 7:12; John 13:34, 35.

⁸ We eagerly anticipate attending the “Doers of God’s Word” District Convention. Have you made all your preparations, including hotel reservations and travel arrangements? May our conduct at the hotels and in the convention city always reflect the truth that is in our hearts and our love for our Creator.

Be Attentive to Sacred Pronouncements

¹ Not everything spoken by man deserves special attention. But when God speaks, there is vital reason to listen. (Deut. 28:1, 2) Thankfully, inspired penmen recorded “the sacred pronouncements of God” for our benefit. (Rom. 3:2) The upcoming district convention will provide precious opportunities to hear these pronouncements as they are read and discussed. How can you be especially attentive?

² **Arrive Early Each Morning:** Imagine the excitement of the Israelites when they were told to meet Jehovah at Mount Sinai to hear his Law! (Ex. 19:10, 11, 16-19) If you have a similar attitude about receiving Jehovah’s instruction at the district convention, you will make arrangements to arrive early each day. We cannot listen to the entire program if we walk in late and disturb others by our efforts to find seats. Doors will open at the convention site at 8:00 a.m., and the program begins at 9:30 a.m. each day.

³ Even some who arrive early are not in their seats for the start of the session. Why is this? They wait until the chairman introduces the opening song before they stop conversing with friends and start making their way to their seats. We should take note that several minutes before the opening song of each session, the chairman will be seated on the platform while introductory Kingdom music is played. This is our signal that it is time to be seated! Then, when the opening song is called for, we will be ready to join in singing praises to Jehovah.

⁴ **Listen as a United Family:** When sacred pronouncements were read to the congregated Israelites, families, including “little ones,” were to listen and learn. (Deut. 31:12) At our conventions, children should not be “let on the loose.” (Prov. 29:15) Parents, arrange for your entire family to sit together—teenagers included. Some parents wait until the opening song to take their young ones to the rest room. However, this would hardly teach children the great importance of songs and prayers in our worship. How much better it is to care for restroom needs *before* the start of each session if at all possible!

⁵ It will help us to listen if we get plenty of rest each night and avoid heavy meals during

the day. Concentrate on what the speaker is saying. Refuse to allow your mind to wander. Follow along in the Bible when scriptures are read. Take brief notes. As each talk is being given, review in your mind what the speaker has said, and consider how you will apply the material. At the end of the day, discuss the program as a family. What points did each one enjoy? How can your family put this information to good use?

⁶ **Show Respect for God’s Word:** Conventions give us a fine opportunity to talk to friends and enjoy upbuilding association. By arriving early, we will have time to converse before the program starts. Some, though, engage in conversation during the program, mistakenly thinking that this causes little distraction in a large auditorium. Even when meetings are held in a large setting, it is a time to listen, just as when attending a meeting in the Kingdom Hall. The use of cellular phones, pagers, camcorders, and cameras should not be allowed to cause distractions during the program.

⁷ While Moses was receiving the Law from Jehovah, “he ate no bread and he drank no water.” (Ex. 34:28) Similarly, it would be inappropriate to eat or drink while convention sessions are in progress. Unless serious health factors are involved, wait until the “appointed time” for this.—Eccl. 3:1.

⁸ At some conventions, there continues to be a problem with many brothers and sisters and even young children milling about in the corridors during the sessions. Attendants will be instructed to ask such ones to return to the auditorium. Volunteers who are working in various departments should be seated in the audience as soon as their work has been completed. Unless volunteers are assigned to do essential work during the sessions, they should be in their seats, listening to the program. They should not linger in the departments, visiting with one another while the program is in session.

⁹ We would never want to become ‘dull in our hearing’ when listening to God’s Word. (Heb. 5:11) Let us therefore be resolved to show due respect by listening attentively as the sacred pronouncements from Jehovah are discussed at our upcoming district convention.

Maintain Fine Conduct That Glorifies God

¹ Wherever we are, our conduct, dress, and grooming bear witness about us and the God we worship. This becomes especially noticeable at large gatherings of God's people, where many people observe us. When we are exemplary, Jehovah's name is glorified. (1 Pet. 2: 12) However, poor behavior or thoughtless actions on the part of just a few can bring reproach on God's name and on his people. (Eccl. 9:18b) Keeping in mind that by our conduct outsiders judge our organization and the God we worship should make us conscientious about 'doing all things for God's glory.'—1 Cor. 10:31.

² **Exemplary Conduct at Hotels:** In most cases, hotel personnel are very impressed with the orderliness, good manners, and cleanliness of Jehovah's Witnesses. One manager, when speaking about Witness families who stayed at his hotel, said: "The children of Jehovah's Witnesses are the best children I've ever seen! They are dressed like ladies and gentlemen; they are polite, courteous, and well-mannered; and they have not caused any problem whatever. You are really to be complimented on your youngsters. We have enjoyed having your children here." Comments like these are readily forthcoming because those dealing with us can see the love and respect that exist among Jehovah's people.

³ On the other hand, remarks by other hotel personnel indicate that there is still a problem with some who are careless in their conduct or who abuse hotel facilities. This causes problems and creates criticism that should not exist. Some managers complain that children and teenagers are noisy and unruly, being unsupervised by their parents while using the swimming pool or other recreational facilities.

⁴ Most hotels have rules that guests are expected to follow. Some brothers have broken these rules in regard to noise levels or cooking in their rooms. Hotel managers tell us that cooking, where not allowed, is a common abuse of their property. Not only have rooms been physically damaged but lingering odors have also made it impossible to rent the rooms for days or weeks afterward. Unless the cooking of food is specifically permitted in the room, it must not be done.

⁵ A real effort should be made to cooperate fully with the management. Certainly, we do not want to leave an unfavorable impression of Jehovah's people. As Christians we must conduct ourselves honestly at all times. We should not take linen or other "souvenirs" from hotels, as that is stealing; nor should we be untruthful in reporting how many people we plan to have in a room when making reservations or when checking in.

⁶ **Proper Decorum at the Convention:** Regardless of the type of facility used, it is to be viewed as a large Kingdom Hall during the convention. Appropriate dress and grooming should be just as evident as when we attend the meetings of our local congregation. Both during and following convention sessions, brothers and sisters should avoid wearing immodest or faddish outfits, which reflect the spirit of the world and make us hard to recognize as being wholesomely different. Sisters should be careful that the style and length of their skirts and dresses are suitably modest. (1 Tim. 2:9, 10) Whether attending the convention, staying at a hotel, eating in a restaurant, or shopping in a store, we should at all times reflect that we are God's ministers, giving no cause for stumbling.—2 Cor. 6:3.

⁷ The baptism will be held on Saturday morning at the convention. The April 1, 1995, *Watchtower*, page 30, describes the attitude we should display on that occasion. It states that we "ought to treat baptism with appropriate seriousness. It is not a time for outbursts, for partying, or for hilarity. But neither is it a somber or grim time." It would be most inappropriate for those getting baptized to wear very skimpy or revealing bathing apparel, whether men or women. Hence, all should reflect both the seriousness and the joy of Christian baptism.

⁸ Peter reminds us of 'what sort of persons we ought to be in holy acts of conduct and deeds of godly devotion.' (2 Pet. 3:11) May our words and actions at the "Doers of God's Word" District Convention help honesthearted observers to know and worship our great God, who is worthy of all honor and glory.—1 Cor. 14:24, 25.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **May:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Have *Require* brochure available for those showing interest, and endeavor to start home Bible studies. **June:** *What Does God Require of Us?* Concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our*

Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You?* *Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate.

■ The presiding overseer should telephone the Magazine Department at Wallkill if he does not receive the congregation's supply of *Our Kingdom Ministry* by the 25th of the month preceding the issue date.

■ We find it necessary to remind all publishers that the Society's return address should never be used on any personal correspondence. This includes all letters and items of literature that are mailed to give a witness to interested people, to not-at-homes, or to those who live in inaccessible places. When witnessing by mail, use either your personal return

address or the local Kingdom Hall address. Please do not use the Society's address.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on June 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

FEBRUARY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	149	122.3	99.4	54.8 4.7
Pios.	93,775	63.2	43.2	20.8 1.7
Aux. Pios.	15,750	49.3	35.6	14.1 1.0
Pubs.	831,144	8.9	7.7	3.4 0.3
TOTAL	940,818			Baptized: 1,387

QUESTION BOX

■ How can attendants assist parents in helping their children maintain proper decorum at meetings?

Children are naturally energetic, unaccustomed to sitting for long periods of time. After a meeting, children have pent-up energy that may incline them to run and chase other children in the Kingdom Hall or at other meeting places, in the parking lot, or on the sidewalk. However, true is the proverb: 'A child let on the loose will cause his parent shame.'—Prov. 29:15.

Sad to say, some of our older brothers and sisters have been seriously injured because children ran into them and knocked them down. This has caused undue suffering as well as unnecessary expense for the parents and the congregation. For their own security and the safety of others, children should not be allowed to run

and play inside or outside the Kingdom Hall.

Parents have the Scriptural responsibility to train their children to treat our places of worship with proper respect. (Eccl. 5:1a) At our Christian meetings, assemblies, and conventions, attendants are assigned to see that "all things take place decently" and that there is "good order." (1 Cor. 14:40; Col. 2:5) They must remain alert before, during, and after the program, both indoors and outdoors. If a child is running or becoming unruly, the attendant can gently stop the child, and he can explain to the child why such actions are not acceptable. The child's parent also should kindly be told of the problem and of the need to supervise the child. The parent should respond appropriately.

It is understood that at times infants and small children may cry or become disruptive during meetings. Attendants, arriving at least

20 minutes before the start of the program, can reserve the last couple of rows in the auditorium for parents who would like to sit there with their young children. The rest of us should cooperate by leaving those seats available to them.

If a child is causing a disruption, the parent should take some action. If the parent does not and the disturbance becomes distracting, an attendant should kindly ask if the parent would like to take the child out of the auditorium. When we invite new ones with young children to the meetings, we should sit with them and offer to help with the children if they cry or disrupt in other ways.

It brings us joy to see children of all ages at the Kingdom Hall and to observe their good conduct within God's household. (1 Tim. 3:15) By their respecting Jehovah's arrangement for worship, they bring him honor and are appreciated by all in the congregation.

Finding Joy in Your Sacred Service

¹ They returned “with joy.” The Bible account expresses how the 70 disciples felt when they reported back to Jesus, following an extended preaching tour. They experienced an inner sense of delight from doing God’s will. (Luke 10:17) What can help you to find similar joy in sacred service?

² **A Positive Attitude:** You have the God-given privilege of acquainting people with Jehovah’s grand purpose. By your preaching, you may help free an individual from this world’s degrading practices and the shackles of false religion. You can offer people the hope of life in a world free of the discord that surrounds us today. Think of the joy that Jehovah has when you successfully

plant the seeds of truth in a receptive heart. Be positive in praying for God’s spirit to produce in you the fruit of joy as you pursue the ministry with all your heart.

³ **Practical Training:** The instruction session that Jesus conducted with the 70 disciples has been likened to a modern-day Service Meeting. He provided training so that they could effectively accomplish their ministry. (Luke 10:1-16) Today the Service Meeting trains you in ways to approach people, how to start conversations, and how to start and conduct home Bible studies. By applying yourself and improving your preaching skills, you will find that any feelings of uneasiness or inadequacy that

you may have had will diminish and be overshadowed by confidence and joy.

⁴ **Focus on the Future:** Jesus found joy in his sacred service despite the sufferings he endured. Why? Because he kept his eye sharply focused on the blessings and privileges that lay ahead of him. (Heb. 12:2) You can do the same by keeping your mind and heart focused on Jehovah’s name and on the blessings to come in God’s new world. This will add joy and meaning to your ministry.

⁵ Rendering sacred service to Jehovah is the greatest privilege you can have today. Therefore, may you say: “To do your will, O my God, I have delighted.”—Ps. 40:8.

“Tested as to Fitness”—How?

¹ With the continued growth in Jehovah’s organization, there is an ongoing need for qualified brothers to serve as ministerial servants. Most brothers not yet appointed, including teenagers, have a desire to serve in the congregation. When they are assigned extra work, they feel useful and have a sense of accomplishment. Their further advancement depends on their being “tested as to fitness.” (1 Tim. 3:10) How is this accomplished?

² **The Role of the Elders:** As part of measuring a brother by the Scriptural qualifications for ministerial servants found at 1 Timothy 3:8-13, the elders will test a brother’s fitness to shoulder responsibility. They may assign him to perform helpful services connected with dispensing magazines

and literature, handling microphones, maintaining the Kingdom Hall, and so forth. The elders will observe how he responds to and cares for his assignments. They will look for the qualities of dependability, punctuality, diligence, modesty, a willing spirit, and an ability to get along well with others. (Phil. 2:20) Is he exemplary in his dress and grooming? Does he have a sense of responsibility? They want to see in “his fine conduct his works with a mildness that belongs to wisdom.” (Jas. 3:13) Is he truly reaching out to be of assistance in the congregation? Is he carrying out Jesus’ command to “make disciples of people” by zealously sharing in the field ministry?—Matt. 28:19; see the September 1, 1990, *Watchtower*, pages 18-28.

³ While the Bible sets no minimum age for one to be appointed a ministerial servant, it refers to such brothers as “men who minister.” We would hardly expect them to be in their early or middle teens, especially since the possibility of having a wife and children is mentioned. (1 Tim. 3:12, 13) Such men should not be yielding to “the desires incidental to youth” but should be conducting themselves in a serious manner, having a fine standing and a clean conscience before God and men.—2 Tim. 2:22.

⁴ While natural ability is useful, one’s attitude and spirit are what really count. Does a brother humbly desire to praise God and to be of service to his brothers? If so, Jehovah will bless his efforts to make progress in the congregation.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

June 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 6/00 Vol. 43, No. 6

“Your Labor Is Not in Vain”

¹ What an encouraging thought! Your labor in Jehovah's service is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58) In contrast, think of how people labor long and hard trying to improve their status in life or their financial situation. They may pursue higher education for years or work slavishly to get ahead materially. Yet, because of “time and unforeseen occurrence,” they may never attain the prestige they are seeking, or they may be forced to settle for much less than they want materially. Like “a striving after wind,” their efforts are in vain. (Eccl. 1:14; 9:11) How vital, then, that we have plenty to do in the only work that is

not in vain because it has lasting value!

² **The Work That Really Counts:** Preaching the good news of God's Kingdom is the most important work on earth. It is the work that must be done whether people listen or not. We want to be able to say, as did Paul: “I am clean from the blood of all men, for I have not held back from telling you all the counsel of God.”—Acts 20:26, 27.

³ When people listen and respond to the Kingdom message, what joy there is! A young woman lost her aunt in death. She wondered where her aunt had gone—to heaven or to hell? She prayed to God for help, using the name Jehovah,

as her sister had taught her to do. Soon she was studying the Bible and attending Christian meetings. She gained a whole new outlook on life and broke her ties with street gangs. The young woman quit smoking, taking drugs, and stealing. She admits: “Only love for Jehovah made me leave such a bad way of life. Only Jehovah in his great mercy could give me the hope of everlasting life.” She is no longer spending her life in vain pursuits.

⁴ Even when people refuse to listen, you still accomplish something worthwhile. They know that Jehovah's Witnesses have visited them. Your own integrity, faithfulness, and love are confirmed. So, is your labor in the Lord's work in vain? Never!

“Be Liberal, Ready to Share”

¹ Centuries ago the apostle Paul instructed Timothy to encourage fellow believers “to work at good, to be rich in fine works, to be liberal, ready to share.” (1 Tim. 6:18) Paul also reminded the Hebrew Christians not to forget “the doing of good and the sharing of things with others.” (Heb. 13:16) Why did he write these instructions? Because he knew that there would be “glory and honor and peace for everyone who works what is good.”—Rom. 2:10.

² By reason of his Creatorship, Jehovah God is the Owner of all things. (Rev. 4:11) We certainly appreciate what he is doing in our behalf with his belongings. Despite the thank-

less attitude of many of humankind, the Most High continues to allow all to benefit from his generous provisions for sustaining life. (Matt. 5:45) He even gave his dearest Son as a sacrifice so that we might have life everlasting. Should not the love that we have been shown compel us to prove ourselves thankful by being liberal with fellow humans?—2 Cor. 5:14, 15.

³ **What Can We Share?** It is only right that we use whatever assets we have in a way that is pleasing in God's sight. Surely we want to support the worldwide Kingdom work in a material and spiritual way. Of course, the good news is the

most valuable treasure anyone can possess, for it is “God's power for salvation.” (Rom. 1:16) By liberally using our time and resources every month to participate in the preaching and teaching work, we may be able to share this spiritual treasure with others, leading to their gaining everlasting life.

⁴ Jehovah is very pleased when we assist those of little means. He promises blessings, and he also reminds us: “Valuable things will be of no benefit on the day of fury, but righteousness itself will deliver from death.” (Prov. 11:4; 19:17) Supporting the Kingdom work materially and having a full share in preaching the good news are wonderful ways we can show that we really are liberal, ready to share.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting June 12

Song 136

8 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

15 min: "Your Labor Is Not in Vain." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Include comments on experience related in the June 15, 1996, *Watchtower*, page 32.

22 min: Starting Studies with the *Require* Brochure. A talk, reviewing article in the January 1999 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 6. Demonstrate the suggested presentation in paragraph 6. Have one or two publishers briefly relate the success they have had in starting studies, telling how they introduced the study and what they did to keep the study going week after week. Song 209 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 19

Song 14

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report and announcement of quarterly accounts audit. If the congregation has copies of the *Young People Ask* or *Youth* books in stock, demonstrate how they can be used to good advantage in the ministry during the summer months, when we are more likely to find teenagers at home.

8 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

25 min: "How Could I . . . Unless Someone Guided Me?" Question-and-answer discussion conducted by the service

overseer. Have each paragraph read aloud, and read the scriptures in paragraphs 3, 4, and 7. When covering paragraph 6, explain the role of the service overseer in determining whether or not personal Bible studies should be revived with baptized people.—See the November 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box. Song 89 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting June 26

Song 39

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for June. Review literature offer for July. Show the older brochures that are available locally, and briefly point out the purpose of each one. Have a well-prepared demonstration showing how to offer one of them in the ministry.

17 min: "Be Liberal, Ready to Share." Questions and answers. Include the four reasons "Why We Give" that are outlined in the November 1, 1996, *Watchtower*, pages 29-30.

18 min: Know How to Give an Answer. (Col. 4:6) Talk and audience discussion. What do you do when you encounter an individual who raises an unscrip-tural argument? The *Reasoning* book often comes to the rescue by providing practical suggestions on how to give a tactful answer. For example, although we view death as an enemy that will be conquered through Christ's ransom, others are convinced that nothing will eliminate this eventuality, even putting faith in the false idea of reincarnation. Discuss

the responses that are offered in the *Reasoning* book in the feature "If Someone Says—" on pages 103-4 and 321. Encourage everyone to carry the book in the field ministry.

Song 44 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 3

Song 213

10 min: Local announcements. Ask publishers who have started studies in the *Require* brochure to relate how this was accomplished.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Applying Bible Principles Strengthens Family Life. Discussion between two brothers, based on the eight points covered in the *Reasoning* book, pages 253-4. Explain the importance of helping Bible students learn that the secret of family happiness lies in understanding and applying the principles in God's Word. Using lesson 8 in the *Require* brochure, demonstrate how this can be accomplished. Families who respond to the Bible's counsel are drawn together and find increased joy in close bonds of love and unity. Relate experience in *Family Happiness* book, chapter 13, paragraphs 1, 21-2.

Song 51 and concluding prayer.

MARCH SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	169	124.2	97.5	54.4	4.6
Pios.	93,432	67.4	46.7	21.9	1.7
Aux. Pios.	26,005	50.5	38.0	14.0	0.9
Pubs.	833,257	9.3	8.2	3.5	0.3
TOTAL	952,863			Baptized: 1,952	

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **June:** *What Does God Require of Us?* Concentrate on starting home Bible studies. **July and August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You?* *Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*

■ Since the Gilead graduation will be held on Saturday, September 9, 2000, no tours will be conducted that day at the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York. Any who have planned to visit on that Saturday should reschedule their visit to another convenient time. No congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup that day. ■ Beginning with the June 1, 2000, issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in the Tatar language as a monthly edition. ■ Beginning with the June 15, 2000, issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in the East Armenian language as a semimonthly edition. ■ New Publications Available: *A Book for All People* —Estonian

Apply Yourself to Reading and Writing —Macedonian
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? —Dutch
Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) —Chinese (Simplified)
Jehovah's Witnesses and Education —Dutch
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Azerbaijani
Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them? —Dutch
Sing Praises to Jehovah (Large and Small songbooks) —Dutch
Sing Praises to Jehovah—Large Print (Lyrics only) —Dutch
Watch Tower Publications Index 1996 —Dutch
What Does God Require of Us? —Mongolian
What Happens to Us When We Die? —Estonian
■ New Videocassettes Available: *Purple Triangles* —Dutch

QUESTION BOX

■ Who should offer prayer at congregation meetings?

Congregational prayer is a vital part of our worship. Representing others before Jehovah is a precious privilege and a weighty responsibility. In view of its importance, elders need to use good judgment when deciding which brothers qualify to offer prayer at meetings. Baptized brothers representing the congregation should be mature Christian ministers who are known as good examples and have the respect of the congregation. Their reverent and respectful prayers should reveal a fine relationship with Jehovah God. The article "Praying Before Others With a Humble Heart" in the May 15, 1986, issue of *The Watchtower* outlines important principles that are especially helpful for those who pray publicly on behalf of the congregation.

The elders would not have a brother offer prayer if he is known for questionable or frivolous conduct. A brother who tends to be disgruntled or inclined to use public prayer as a means to air personal differences would not be chosen. (1 Tim. 2:8) Even though a teenage brother may be baptized, the elders will have to determine whether he has the spiritual stature to pray on behalf of the congregation.—Acts 16:1, 2.

Occasionally at meetings for field service, it might be necessary for a baptized sister to offer prayer if there is no qualified brother there to represent the group. She would need to wear an appropriate head covering. If it is likely that a qualified brother will not be present at certain meetings for service, the elders should assign a qualified sister to take the lead.

It is customary for the chairman of the Public Meeting to offer the open-

ing prayer. However, at other congregation meetings, when there are more than a few qualified brothers available, someone other than the brother opening the meeting or the one assigned the final part may be called upon to offer the opening or closing prayers. In any event, the brother who is to be called on to pray at a congregation meeting should be informed beforehand so that he can give thought to what he will say. Then he can offer a coherent, earnest prayer that is appropriate for that particular meeting.

Such prayers need not be long. When a brother offers a public prayer, he will usually be better understood if he stands up, expresses himself with sufficient volume, and speaks distinctly. This will allow all of those assembled to hear the prayer and at the close to say a heartfelt "Amen!"—1 Chron. 16:36; 1 Cor. 14:16.

“How Could I . . . Unless Someone Guided Me?”

¹ When the evangelizer Philip asked the Ethiopian eunuch if he understood what he was reading from God's Word, the man responded: “Really, how could I ever do so, unless someone guided me?” Philip gladly assisted him to understand the good news about Jesus, resulting in the man's immediate baptism. (Acts 8:26-38) Philip was obeying the commission from Christ to ‘make disciples of people of all the nations, baptizing them and teaching them.’ —Matt. 28:19, 20.

² We must obey the commission to make disciples, just as Philip did. However, the sort of rapid spiritual progress that the Ethiopian eunuch made is not often seen among the people with whom we study the Bible. That man, a Jewish proselyte well versed in the Scriptures, had a receptive heart and only needed to accept that Jesus was the promised Messiah. It is a challenge if those with whom we study are unfamiliar with the Bible, have been misled by false religious teachings, or are burdened by difficult personal problems. What will help us to be successful in guiding Bible students to dedication and baptism?

³ **Discern the Bible Student's Spiritual Needs:** The August 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* insert discussed the length of time that we might study with people, using the *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book. It gave this direction: “It is necessary to gauge the pace of the study according to the circumstances and aptitude of the student. . . . We do not want to sacrifice the student's having a clear understanding for the sake of speed. Every student needs

a solid basis for his newfound faith in God's Word.” Hence, it is advisable not to rush through the material in the *Knowledge* book with the thought of trying to finish the book in six months. It may require much more than six months to help some individuals progress to the point of baptism. As you conduct the study week by week, spend whatever time is necessary to help the student understand and accept what he is learning from God's Word. In some cases, two or three weeks may be needed to cover one chapter in the *Knowledge* book. This will allow time to read and clarify many of the cited scriptures. —Rom. 12:2.

⁴ However, what if upon completion of the *Knowledge* book, you discern that the student's understanding of the truth needs to be rounded out or that he is not yet fully motivated to take a stand for the truth and dedicate his life to God? (1 Cor. 14:20) What more can you do to guide him onto the road leading to life?—Matt. 7:14.

⁵ **Satisfy the Bible Student's Spiritual Needs:** If it is evident that a person is making progress, although slowly, and that he is developing appreciation for what he is learning, then continue the Bible study in a second book after the *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book are completed. This may not be necessary in every case, but when it is needed, continue the study in the *True Peace* book, the *United in Worship* book, or the *God's Word* book. Most publishers have personal copies of these books to use if the congregation does not have a supply. The *God's Word* book is the only one that can be ordered from Brooklyn. In all cas-

es, the *Require* brochure and the *Knowledge* book would be studied first. The Bible study, return visits, and time spent to continue the study should be counted and reported, even if the student gets baptized before completing the second book.

⁶ Does this mean that those who were recently baptized but who studied only one book should now receive renewed help to study the second book? Not necessarily. However, they may have become inactive or may not have progressed in the truth, and they may feel that they need personal help to make greater application of the truth in their lives. The service overseer should be consulted before a study is revived with a baptized publisher. However, if you know of some who studied the *Knowledge* book in the past but never progressed to dedication and baptism, you may want to take the initiative to see if they would like to resume their Bible study.

⁷ It is a mark of Christian love to give close, personal attention to each interested person with whom we study. Our objective is to help the student achieve greater insight into the truth of God's Word. Then he can take a definite, knowledgeable stand for the truth and dedicate his life to Jehovah, symbolizing that dedication by water baptism. —Ps. 40:8; Eph. 3:17-19.

⁸ Do you remember what happened after the Ethiopian eunuch was baptized? “He kept going on his way rejoicing” as a new disciple of Jesus Christ. (Acts 8:39, 40) May we and those whom we successfully guide in the way of the truth find great joy in serving Jehovah God—now and forever!

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

July 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 7/00 Vol. 43, No. 7

“We Cannot Stop Speaking”

¹Jesus Christ is closely monitoring the preaching work. (Matt. 28:20; Mark 13:10) Though there are nearly six million active proclaimers bearing witness in 234 lands, we must not presume that our witnessing is finished. Until God declares that the work is done, “we cannot stop speaking” about the things we have learned.—Acts 4:20.

²**Rely on God’s Spirit:** Satan applies great pressure to discourage us. (Rev. 12:17) Our own imperfect flesh also plagues us with many problems. Such things can divert our attention

from the all-important preaching work. Nevertheless, if we trust in Jehovah, his spirit will help us face any obstacle.

³When the first-century Christian congregation was severely persecuted, the brothers prayed to God for help to keep speaking his word with all boldness. Jehovah answered their prayer, infusing them with his spirit and giving them the zeal and determination needed to keep on preaching. As a result, they continued without letup boldly declaring the good news.—Acts 4:29, 31; 5:42.

“Let All Things Take Place for Upbuilding”

¹In dealing with our brothers, we should do what is good for their upbuilding. This means being concerned about protecting their spiritual interests. If we engage in some type of secular work that involves promoting a product or service, we need to be careful that nothing we do will stumble our brothers.—2 Cor. 6:3; Phil. 1:9, 10.

²Some have become involved in various business ventures, targeting fellow Christians as potential customers. Certain sales organizations encourage their representatives to view everyone as a potential customer—including those who belong to the same religion as they do. Some brothers have organized large gatherings of Witnesses for the purpose of encouraging them to become involved

in a business enterprise. Others promote their venture by directing unsolicited articles, brochures, information on the Internet, or tapes to fellow believers. Would it be proper for a Christian to use his theocratic contacts to take advantage of his spiritual brothers? No!—1 Cor. 10:23, 24, 31-33.

³**Brothers Should Beware:**

This does not mean that a Christian cannot do business with a brother. That is a personal matter. However, some initiate business schemes that encourage greed, and they prompt fellow believers to become their partners or investors. Many of these ventures fail, costing participants huge sums of money. Although those who joined in the enterprise may have been motivated by a de-

⁴**Do Not Fear Negative Talk:**

General opinion or slanderous publicity may tend to have an intimidating effect upon us. However, remember the bold statement of Peter and the other apostles to the Sanhedrin, recorded at Acts 5:29-32. As the Law teacher Gamaliel admitted, God’s work cannot be overthrown. It is not accomplished by our power. This great work has God’s backing, and only he can accomplish it!—Zech. 4:6.

⁵Let us daily beseech Jehovah for his spirit to help us zealously proclaim the good news. May we say, as Jeremiah did, that the Kingdom message is like a burning fire in our bones. (Jer. 20:9) We cannot be silent!

sire to make quick money, the organizer should not feel that he is free from blame if the undertaking fails. He should carefully consider in advance how the spiritual and physical well-being of his brothers would be affected in the event that the venture does not succeed. Those holding positions of theocratic responsibility should be especially cautious about their secular endeavors because others may look to them with respect and place considerable trust in them. It would be wrong to abuse that trust. Privileges of sacred service may be forfeited if a brother loses the respect of others.

⁴Our goal should be to “let all things take place for upbuilding.” (1 Cor. 14:26) We must avoid doing anything that introduces commercial activities into the congregation or promotes them. Such things have nothing to do with our Scriptural reasons for assembling together.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting July 10

Song 7

12 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Comment on April field service report for the country and the local congregation. Direct attention to the box "Look at the Back Page," and demonstrate one of the suggested presentations that would work well in the local territory.

15 min: "We Cannot Stop Speaking." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Stress reasons why we take our preaching assignment so seriously. Include pertinent points from January 15, 1997, *Watchtower*, pages 23-4.

18 min: "Let All Things Take Place for Upbuilding." Two elders discuss the article. Read each paragraph and cited scriptures. Highlight the principles involved. Emphasize the need for discernment when handling business matters or making investments. Review counsel in March 15, 1997, *Watchtower*, pages 18-19, 22.

Song 15 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 17

Song 23

15 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Briefly explain how to use the *Divine Name* brochure to help an interested person appreciate the need to know and use God's personal name.—See *Reasoning* book, pages 196-7.

10 min: "New Circuit Assembly Program." Questions and answers. Announce date of the next circuit assembly, and urge all to attend both days. Encourage all to make a special effort to invite Bible students. Attending the assembly may quicken their desire to observe regularly with the congregation.

20 min: Who Should Be Your Role Model? A father conducts his family study with one or two teenage children. He has recently observed that their conversations often dwell on sports heroes, movie stars, TV personalities, and musicians. He expresses concern because this type of fascination is a manifestation of the spirit of the world. They discuss the May 22, 1998, *Awake!*, pages 12-14. The youths

realize that there is danger in idolizing worldly figures and agree that worldly prominence has nothing to offer Christians. They consider the benefits of viewing parents, elders, other exemplary ones in the congregation—and especially Jesus Christ—as their role models.

Song 34 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 24

Song 45

5 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Recommending Ourselves as God's Ministers. Two ministerial servants discuss the Scriptural admonition given in the December 15, 1998, *Watchtower*, pages 19-20. They appreciate the need to measure up in a fine way as ministerial servants and review what they personally can do to show that they are fulfilling their assignments. They see the importance of being good examples in the field ministry and discuss ways they can be helpful to the elders in giving personal assistance to others. They agree that they want to do all they can to help the congregation appreciate the urgency of the times and grow and prosper spiritually.

10 min: Writing Letters to People Whom We Are Unable to Contact. Talk and audience discussion. As it is increasingly difficult to find people at home, some publishers get good results by writing letters. Consider these guidelines. Letters should be brief, Scripturally based, and respectful. Do not send anonymous letters. Write or type neatly and legibly. Give the Kingdom Hall address and the congregation meeting times along with an invitation to attend. Do not use the Society's return address. Review suggestions offered in the *School Guidebook*, pages 87-8, and the November 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.

15 min: Use Effective Introductions. Select two or three introductions from pages 9-15 of the *Reasoning* book, and discuss how these can be used effectively in local territory. Ask the audience, "What introductions do you use when approaching someone on the street, informally, or otherwise?" Demonstrate one or two introductions as time allows.

Song 54 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting July 31

Song 66

15 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for July. Invite audience to relate personal experiences enjoyed this month when distributing brochures.

12 min: Local needs.

18 min: "Do You Appreciate Jehovah's Patience?" Questions and answers. Include pertinent comments about Jehovah's long-suffering.—See *Insight*, Volume 2, pages 263-4.

Song 75 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 7

Song 88

10 min: Local announcements.

17 min: "Are You a Shy Person?" Questions and answers. Relate an encouraging experience from the 1997 *Yearbook*, pages 43-4.

18 min: Become Wise in Your Future. Talk by an elder. Young people desire to enjoy a happy future with those they love. While this is natural, they must apply godly counsel if they are to enjoy success. (Prov. 19:20) Attraction toward the opposite sex is strong in youth. If feelings are not controlled, the results can be disastrous. Many questions arise about the wisdom of teenagers becoming emotionally involved with the opposite sex, developing romantic relationships that lead to dating. Review admonition given in *Young People Ask* book, pages 231-5. Highlight major points in November 15, 1999, *Watchtower*, pages 18-23, that show the importance of youths fulfilling their whole obligation to God. Encourage teenagers to reflect on this counsel and to discuss it with their parents if they have questions.

Song 101 and concluding prayer.

Look at the Back Page

The back page of what? Past issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry*. For suggestions on how to offer various brochures that will be featured in the ministry this month and next, look at the July and August issues of 1995, 1996, 1997, and 1998.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for July and August:

Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You?*, *Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?* **October:** Individual copies of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered.

■ Starting in September, circuit overseers will give the public talk entitled "Human Rule—Weighed in the Balance."

■ Since the annual meeting of the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society of Pennsylvania will be held on Saturday, October 7, 2000, no tours will be conducted that day at the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Patter-

son, and Wallkill, New York. Any who have planned to visit on that Saturday should reschedule their visit to another convenient time. No congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup that day.

■ If you wish to provide monetary assistance for disaster relief, you may send your donations to the Society, where a relief fund is set aside for this purpose. The address is: Watchtower, 25 Columbia Heights, Brooklyn, NY 11201-2483. (See the December 1, 1985, *Watchtower*, pages 20-2.) Please do not send clothing, supplies, or materials to the Society or to the disaster area unless specifically requested to do so by the Society or the relief committee. This will ensure an orderly relief effort and the proper distribution of goods.

■ New Publications Available: *"All Scripture"—Authentic and Beneficial* (Brochure for use in 2000 Theocratic Ministry School) —Russian, Ukrainian

Bible Topics for Discussion—Romanian *Does Fate Rule Our Lives?—Or Does God Hold Us Responsible?* (Tract No. 71)

—French, Wolof *Hellfire—Is It Part of Divine Justice?* (Tract No. 74)

—French *Jesus Christ—Who Is He?* (Tract No. 24)

—Italian, Kinyarwanda, Persian *My Book of Bible Stories* (Small size)

—French *Questions Young People Ask—Answers That Work*

—Maltese, Serbian

Watch Tower Publications Index 1997

—Arabic

Watch Tower Publications Index 1986-1995

—French

What Hope for Dead Loved Ones? (Tract No. 16)

—Miskito

Will Suffering Ever End? (Tract No. 75)

—Vietnamese

APRIL SERVICE REPORT

Number of:		Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl.St.
Sp'l Pios.	146	122.8	109.9	59.2	4.7
Pios.	94,010	68.5	48.9	22.9	1.7
Aux. Pios.	153,774	48.4	38.2	12.0	0.7
Pubs.	740,539	9.8	8.4	3.4	0.3
TOTAL	988,469			Baptized: 2,466	

The insert in the March issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* posed the question "Can We Make April 2000 Our Best Month Ever?" We are happy to report that in April we had a new peak of 153,774 auxiliary pioneers! The combined total of regular and auxiliary pioneers was 247,784. This exceeded the previous peak set in March 1997 by 32,795. The increased activity resulted in new peaks of 21,144,343 hours, 16,687,638 magazines, and 6,509,747 return visits! May Jehovah continue to bless our efforts in answering the call to proclaim his Kingdom with great intensity.

New Circuit Assembly Program

We know that Jehovah God is worthy of our love and our exclusive devotion. However, the world seeks to entice us away from maintaining our close relationship with him. (John 17:14) To reinforce our love for Jehovah and to strengthen us to resist the things of the world that endanger our spirituality, the new circuit assembly program for the 2001 service year will have as its theme "Love God—Not the Things of the World." —1 John 2:15-17.

Deep love for Jehovah impels us to give a witness about him. Even so, the field service is not

easy for many of God's people. In the part "Love for God Motivates Us in Our Ministry," learn how many have overcome shyness and other obstacles in order to share fully in this work.

How do the deteriorating standards of the world influence us? Actions once considered wicked are now so-called normal behavior. The talk "Lovers of Jehovah Hate What Is Bad" and the symposium "Things in the World—How Do We View Them?" will bolster our determination to say no to wrong desires.

A model Theocratic Minis-

try School and Service Meeting will be included in the program, as well as a summary of the *Watchtower* study article for the week. The public address, "How Love and Faith Conquer the World," will encourage us to imitate Jesus in resisting worldly pressures. (John 16:33) Be sure to invite your Bible students to attend. Any who wish to be baptized should tell the presiding overseer as soon as possible so that the necessary arrangements can be made.

This circuit assembly will focus our attention on exactly where our love should be centered so as to enjoy Jehovah's rich blessings. Do not miss any of it!

Are You a Shy Person?

¹ We are not surprised when we see a young child peeking at us from behind his mother or father. Shyness is natural in early childhood. Even in adulthood, many are somewhat shy by nature. If shyness affects your participation in the ministry, what can you do?

² **Coping With Shyness:** It is important to give attention to “the secret person of the heart.” (1 Pet. 3:4) Strengthen your love for Jehovah and for your neighbor. Be thoroughly convinced that fulfilling the preaching commission is one of the best ways to demonstrate self-sacrificing love. Pursue a good routine of personal study and meeting attendance. Pray regularly and specifically for Jehovah’s help. Strong faith and trust in him will build confi-

dence and give “all the more courage to speak the word of God fearlessly.”—Phil. 1:14.

³ Fight feelings of inadequacy. It appears that Timothy had to do this. Paul encouraged Timothy to “let no man ever look down on [his] youth,” reminding him that “God gave us not a spirit of cowardice, but that of power.” (1 Tim. 4:12; 2 Tim. 1:7) Timothy was used fully by Jehovah, who will also use you if you move forward with complete confidence in Him.—Ps. 56:11.

⁴ Reflecting on a Bible text, such as Matthew 10:37, helped a sister whose timidity made her fearful of her opposed husband. As she persevered, the ministry became easier for her, and eventually her husband, moth-

er, and brothers all accepted the truth!

⁵ **Preparation Is Essential:** Your confidence will further increase when you prepare thoroughly for the ministry. Select a simple presentation from the *Reasoning* book or past issues of *Our Kingdom Ministry*, get it well in mind, and rehearse it. Rather than building up unnecessary anxiety, think positively. Draw courage from working closely with others. Keep in mind that many of the people you will meet at the doors are timid, just like you. Everyone needs the Kingdom message.

⁶ If you are shy, do not despair. As you apply yourself, Jehovah will help you to be an effective preacher of the good news. Then you will have joy in your ministry.—Prov. 10:22.

Do You Appreciate Jehovah’s Patience?

¹ If Jehovah had not been patient for the past 10, 20, and more years, allowing an extended witness to be given, would you have learned the truth? How grateful we are that he has allowed many more people “to attain to repentance.” Yet, Jehovah’s great day of judgment “will come as a thief.” (2 Pet. 3:9, 10) Hence, the patience of God should not be misinterpreted as a delay in bringing the end to this system of things.—Hab. 2:3.

² **Feel Pity for People:** Jehovah’s long-suffering far exceeds our comprehension. We must not lose sight of its purpose. (Jonah 4:1-4, 11) Jehovah sees the pitiable condition of mankind and has compassion for them. Jesus feels the same

way. Having pity for the crowds to whom he preached, he wanted the evangelizing work to expand so that more would have the opportunity of gaining everlasting life.—Matt. 9:35-38.

³ When tragedies and disasters strike, do not our hearts go out to people who do not know the truth? People today are like “sheep without a shepherd” as they try to cope with and make sense of the chaos in the world. (Mark 6:34) By zealously preaching the good news, we comfort those of rightly disposed heart and demonstrate our appreciation for Jehovah’s patience.—Acts 13:48.

⁴ **Our Work Is Urgent:** Last year 323,439 were baptized and over 14,000,000 attended the Memorial. What potential there

is for many more to escape the destruction of this wicked system! How large the “great crowd” will be, we do not know. (Rev. 7:9) How long our commission to preach will last, we do not know. But Jehovah knows. The good news will be preached to his satisfaction, “and then the end will come.”—Matt. 24:14.

⁵ The time left is reduced, and God’s day is imminent. (1 Cor. 7:29a; Heb. 10:37) Without a doubt, “our salvation is nearer than at the time when we became believers.” (Rom. 13:11) Let us not miss the purpose of divine patience. Instead, let us urgently preach so that more who yearn for righteousness may experience Jehovah’s great mercy.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

August 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 8/00 Vol. 43, No. 8

“Fight the Fine Fight of the Faith”

¹The apostle Paul admonished Timothy to “fight the fine fight of the faith.” (1 Tim. 6:12) Paul himself lived up to those words. Late in his life, he spoke with assurance that he had personally fought a good fight. (2 Tim. 4:6-8) In every way, he pursued the ministry with boldness, courage, and endurance. By imitating his example, we can have the same inner assurance that we are doing the best we can in our fight for the Christian faith.

²**Expend the Effort Needed:** Paul worked hard in the ministry. (1 Cor. 15:10) So do we as we search to find all the deserving ones in our territory. (Matt. 10:11) To reach some of them, it may mean getting up early to

witness to those we meet on the street. Or it may mean working in the late afternoon or early evening to meet people after they return to their homes.

³It takes self-discipline and good scheduling to be punctual when meeting with our book study group for field service. For example, some of the members of the Bethel family travel up to 60 minutes each way to share in the ministry with their assigned congregations on weekends. Also, we may admire some publishers and families in our congregation who travel quite a distance but are on time. Such examples of diligence and personal organization are worthy of imitation.

⁴We should be motivated to

follow up on all the interest we find. Even when placing literature on the street or in informal settings, we need to make an effort to obtain the individual's address or telephone number. Then we can call on him to develop the interest and endeavor to start a Bible study.

⁵**Be Regular in the Service:** Paul was consistent and thorough in preaching. (Rom. 15:19) What about you? Do you have a regular share in the ministry? Have you participated in the field service yet this month? Congregation Book Study conductors are interested in seeing that everyone in their group shares in the ministry during August. They will help you to do so.

⁶By imitating Paul's example in fully supporting the good news, we will continue to “fight the fine fight of the faith.”

Are You Enduring?

¹“No greater cause for thankfulness do I have than these things, . . . that my children go on walking in the truth.” (3 John 4) The endurance of John's spiritual children brought him great joy. How it must delight our heavenly Father to see millions of his prospective children “go on walking in the truth!”—Prov. 23:15, 16; 27:11.

²While God's people as a whole are persisting in zealous Christian activity, some have gradually slowed down. Though these may have been energetic when they first learned the truth, with the passing of years, they have settled into a pattern of having only a small or infrequent share in the disciple-making work.

³Understandably, some may have slowed down because of physical limitations and the effects of advancing age. However, they are to be commended for their endurance. They are doing what they can. But each one who has dedicated his life to God should ask himself: ‘Have I allowed myself to focus so much on personal pursuits that Kingdom interests occupy only a small place in my life? Have I become somewhat “lukewarm,” or am I still exerting myself “vigorously”?’ (Rev. 3:15, 16; Luke 13:24) May all of us prayerfully reflect on what we are doing and make improvement as needed, bearing in mind that Jehovah promises to provide “glory and honor and peace for every-

one who works what is good.” —Rom. 2:10.

⁴**How to Endure:** What helped Jesus to endure? Paul explained: “For the joy that was set before him he endured a torture stake, despising shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.” (Heb. 12:1-3) The joy that was set before Jesus far outweighed the temporary trials that he had to face. Keeping in mind the joy that is set before us can help us to endure also. (Rev. 21:4, 7; 22:12) If we look to Jehovah to give us strength through personal study, regular meeting attendance, and persistent prayer, we will be able to persevere in the work he has given us to do.

⁵Jehovah rejoices in the endurance of his loyal ones. So let us increase his joy by continually “walking in the truth.”

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting August 14

Song 114

12 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Comment on May field service report for the country and the local congregation. Only two weekends are left in August, so encourage everyone to participate in the ministry before the month ends. Review the weekend schedule of meetings for field service.

15 min: "Fight the Fine Fight of the Faith." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Draw added comments from *Our Ministry* book, pages 44-5, on how Congregation Book Study conductors organize field service activity for their groups and give attention to any who need personal help to share in and report their ministry regularly.

18 min: How You Can Benefit by Going to School. A father talks to his children to help them appreciate why a secular education is beneficial. (See *Young People Ask* book, pages 133-9.) Many youths feel that going to school is a real challenge in today's unruly society. They also feel bored, concluding that what they learn will be of little practical value. Father reviews Scriptural principles and sound reasons why it is wise to acquire an adequate amount of secular education. He encourages his children to study well and pay attention in class.

Song 127 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 21

Song 143

12 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Have a well-rehearsed field service demonstration showing how to answer the question: "Why would a God of love allow suffering to continue so long?" (*Reasoning* book, pages 395-6) Encourage everyone to share in the ministry this weekend.

8 min: "New Special Assembly Day Program." A talk. Announce date of the next special assembly, if known, and urge all to attend the entire day.

Encourage publishers to invite newly interested ones and Bible students.

25 min: "Are You Benefiting Yourself?" Questions and answers. Song 152 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting August 28

Song 165

10 min: Local announcements. Remind all to turn in field service reports for August. Congregation Book Study conductors should check with everyone in their group so that all reports can be tallied by September 6.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "Meetings Benefit Young People." Question-and-answer discussion conducted by an elder. When discussing paragraph 8, consider some practical things that promote better concentration and attentiveness during meetings. (See September 22, 1998, *Awake!*, pages 19-20.) Encourage parents to be firm in having their children regularly attend all the meetings.—See experience in the September 1, 1997, *Watchtower*, page 25.

Song 176 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 4

Song 196

15 min: Local announcements. Question Box. Have publishers relate the experiences they had when witnessing informally on the way to, during, or returning from the district convention.

10 min: Our Time Is Special. A talk by an elder, based on November 15, 1996, *Watchtower*, pages 22-3.

20 min: "Are You Enduring?" Talk and audience discussion. Encourage all to reflect on their personal success in demonstrating endurance in the Christian ministry. If weaknesses become manifest, there is a need to strengthen ourselves spiritually. Include comments from October 1, 1999, *Watchtower*, pages 20-1, paragraphs 17-21. Invite two or three publishers who have endured faithfully over a period of years to relate what they are doing to persevere. Song 206 and concluding prayer.

QUESTION BOX

■ Should the congregation have a master territory map displayed in the Kingdom Hall?

Yes, a master territory map should be mounted in a frame and displayed on a wall in the Kingdom Hall. The map should not be placed on the information board. It should show the overall boundaries of the congregation's assigned territory and the boundaries of each individual territory with its assigned number. The territory boundaries of all the congregations using the same Kingdom Hall should be indicated. This will help publishers and newly interested ones alike to determine in which congregation's territory they live. Showing Congregation Book Study locations on the map will also help all in locating the book study to which they are assigned. The map should be kept up-to-date.

Displaying such a map serves as a reminder to all publishers that, if possible, it would be good to have a personal territory assignment. The map is helpful to those who want to select a territory near their home. It may at times be a time-saver at meetings for service, enabling the conductor to direct each group of publishers quickly to the area where they are assigned to work.

The map also gives evidence that the congregation is organized to preach the Kingdom message thoroughly in its assigned territory.—Luke 9:6.

MAY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	132	122.4	108.5	56.2 4.4
Pios.	89,897	65.7	46.6	21.4 1.7
Aux. Pios.	35,808	49.1	38.6	12.9 0.8
Pubs.	802,661	9.2	8.0	3.4 0.3
TOTAL	928,498			Baptized: 2,671

Song 176 Welcome to incoming King Ps 24:7

Are You Benefiting Yourself?

¹ Millions of people today want to know how to overcome problems and enjoy happy lives. They devour self-help books or look to groups and organizations for advice on how to better their lives. Perhaps some can point to limited benefits they have gained. Yet, judging by the quality of life today, have people in general learned to enjoy peaceful, deeply satisfying lives through human programs of instruction? Hardly can that be said!—1 Cor. 3:18-20.

² On the other hand, our Creator provides free of charge the most helpful instruction to all who will listen. Jehovah wants everyone to benefit from his teaching. He has generously provided his inspired Word to guide mankind in uprightness, and he has caused the good news of his Kingdom to be declared in all the earth. (Ps. 19:7, 8; Matt. 24:14; 2 Tim. 3:16) A truly happy life is directly related to paying attention to Jehovah's commandments.—Isa. 48:17, 18.

³ Jehovah's guidance is far superior to that provided by any self-help books or self-improvement schemes offered by the world. We can obtain genuine help and lasting benefits if we take full advantage of Jehovah's provisions as outlined in his Word and taught by his organization.—1 Pet. 3:10-12.

⁴ **Benefit Yourself at Congregation Meetings:** Today, Jehovah shows genuine interest in teaching us his ways, and we benefit by paying attention to his instruction. Our five weekly meetings give evidence of Jehovah's loving concern. When we attend congregation meetings, our knowledge of God increases. We learn how to protect ourselves from what is bad by drawing close to Jehovah. In this way our spirits are uplifted.

⁵ There is more. At congregation meetings we are able to "widen out." (2 Cor. 6:13) This involves getting to know others in the congregation. We benefit from an interchange of encouragement, such as the apostle Paul wrote about in his letter to the Romans. (Rom. 1:11, 12) When writing to the Hebrews, he strongly admonished those who

may have been developing the custom of forsaking Christian fellowship.—Heb. 10:24, 25.

⁶ Joyful satisfaction in living is directly related to being interested in the welfare of others. We are encouraged to seek ways to contribute to the happiness of others. Our Christian meetings, therefore, certainly are for our personal benefit and for the benefit of those with whom we cultivate wholesome fellowship. What is required of us is our heartfelt participation.

⁷ The apostle Paul made a similar point in his counsel to Timothy when he wrote: "Be training yourself with godly devotion as your aim." (1 Tim. 4:7) We can ask ourselves: 'Am I training myself? Am I learning to benefit from what I am hearing at the congregation meetings?' Our answers will be yes if we pay attention to what we hear at the meetings and endeavor to apply what we learn. With eyes of faith, we must be able to look beyond the brothers who are doing the teaching and see Jehovah as the Grand Instructor of his people.—Isa. 30:20.

⁸ **Theocratic Ministry School and Service Meeting:** These two meetings are designed to help us be effective in the Christian ministry. The Theocratic Ministry School is just that—a school with students who receive instruction and counsel on a regular basis. You have the opportunity to demonstrate your advancement as a public speaker and as a teacher of God's Word. But to gain the most from the school, you have to enroll, attend, participate regularly, and put your heart into your assignments. Accepting and applying counsel that is given will help you make advancement.

⁹ The Service Meeting teaches us the importance of the Christian ministry and shows us how we can share in the work of making disciples. Are you and your family benefiting fully from what is presented at these two meetings? A Christian couple observes: "At one Service Meeting, we heard that we should consider the daily text as a family. We were not doing this, but now we are." How have they benefited themselves?

They admit: "We find that our conversations around the meal table are more enjoyable. There is no more arguing at dinnertime." Do even little children benefit from the meetings? Yes. The mother says: "It is obvious that our children are deeply affected by the meetings. One particular week we caught our six-year-old son telling some lies. But that week at the meeting, the instruction talk was about lying. With the guiltiest expression on his face, our son looked at his father and scrunched down in his seat. He got the point, and we had no problems after that."

¹⁰ A pioneer sister says she is glad that suggestions to improve our ministry are given at the Service Meeting. Why? She explains: "I get into a rut. Sometimes I think that what is suggested in *Our Kingdom Ministry* will not work. But at the Service Meeting, when I hear that we should try it, I get fired with enthusiasm to apply the suggestions. It makes the ministry exciting!" After several weeks of applying the suggestion to try to start a Bible study on the initial call, she started a study on the first call with a girl who had been praying for help.

¹¹ When you hear a talk that includes Bible counsel on personal choices you make, do you sense that Jehovah is speaking directly to you? A brother felt that way. He said: "Recently at one meeting, there was a talk in which a brother discussed what forms of entertainment were proper for Christians and what forms were improper. I used to like to watch boxing on television. But after that meeting, I decided that this sport fell into the category of entertainment that would not be proper for Christians. So I don't watch it anymore." Yes, though this brother had developed a fondness for something that is violent, he humbly responded to Jehovah's leading. —Ps. 11:5.

¹² **The Public Meeting, the Watchtower Study, and the Congregation Book Study:** The public talks we hear each week cover a variety of Bible subjects. What are you deriving from these talks? One Christian husband commented on the benefits he had received: "One public talk highlighted all the fruits of the spirit. The speaker mentioned, with regard to himself, that in order to work on cultivating these fruits, he would choose one

particular quality and work on that for a week. At the end of the week, he reflected on how he did in displaying that fruit in his everyday activities. Then he worked on another quality for the next week. I liked the idea and began to do that myself." What a fine application of what was learned!

¹³ The *Watchtower* Study teaches us to apply Bible principles in various situations of life. This helps us to maintain calm minds and hearts despite life's anxieties. The *Watchtower* Study also keeps us up-to-date with progressive truth. For example, did we not benefit from the study of the May 1, 1999, *Watchtower* articles entitled: "These Things Must Take Place," "Let the Reader Use Discernment," and "Be Vigilant and Be Diligent!" How did these studies affect you personally? Do you show by your actions that you take to heart Jesus' warning about the future? Are you preparing yourself for the tests ahead when we see "the disgusting thing that causes desolation . . . standing in a holy place"? (Matt. 24:15-22) Do your goals and life course manifest that, not the accumulating of material goods, but the sanctifying of Jehovah's name is the most important thing to you? At the *Watchtower* Study, are we not learning to benefit ourselves now?

¹⁴ Think of how much we learn at the Congregation Book Study each week. Currently we are studying the Bible book of Daniel. In the four months that we have been studying that Bible book, have we not seen our faith grow each week? Like Jehovah's beloved prophet Daniel, we strengthen our faith so that we might endure.

¹⁵ **Jehovah Teaches Us to Live Joyfully:** We avoid much heartache when we pay attention to God's commands. Moreover, we experience what joyful living is all about. Following Jehovah's lead, we become participants in his work, not just observers. And those who are doing God's work are happy people. —1 Cor. 3:9; Jas. 1:25.

¹⁶ Think actively of how you will apply the things you hear at congregation meetings. (John 13:17) Serve God enthusiastically, with your whole heart. Your joy will overflow. Your life will become richer, more meaningful. Yes, you will be benefiting yourself.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of May 1 to August 21, 2000. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

- T 1. Gideon's reply to the unjustified verbal attack of the men of Ephraim reflected his mildness and humility and thus deflected their unfair criticism and maintained peace. (Judg. 8:1-3) [Weekly Bible reading]
- T 2. Although Manoah said "it is God that we have seen," in reality he and his wife saw the materialized personal spokesman for God and not Jehovah himself. (Judg. 13:22) [Weekly Bible reading; see w88 5/15 p. 23 par. 3.]
- T 3. At Judges 5:31, the expression "your lovers" prophetically refers to the 144,000 Kingdom heirs. [si p. 50 par. 28]
- F 4. No fragments of the book of Ruth were found among the Dead Sea Scrolls. [si p. 51 par. 3]
- F 5. Judges 21:25 refers to a period of time when Jehovah left the nation of Israel without any guidance whatsoever. [Weekly Bible reading; see w95 6/15 p. 22 par. 16.]
- T 6. The figures of the cherubs on the ark of the covenant indicated the royal presence of Jehovah, who was said to be "sitting upon [or, "between"] the cherubs." (1 Sam. 4:4, ftn.) [Weekly Bible reading; see w80 11/1 p. 29 par. 2.]
- F 7. When Saul's soldiers ate blood in a desperate situation and were not punished, this showed that there may be justifiable reasons for temporarily disregarding divine law to preserve one's life. (1 Sam. 14:24-35) [Weekly Bible reading; see w94 4/15 p. 31 pars. 7-9.]
- T 8. While some associate the word "persuasion" with manipulation and cleverness, it can be used in a positive sense to convey

the idea of convincing and bringing about a change of mind by means of sound, logical reasoning. (2 Tim. 3:14, 15) [w98 5/15 p. 21 par. 4]

9. "The bag of life" refers to a divine provision of protection and preservation, which would benefit David if he avoided bloodguiltiness in God's eyes. (1 Sam. 25:29) [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 6/15 p. 14 par. 3.]
10. The Davidic Kingdom covenant, referred to at 2 Samuel 7:16, narrowed down the line of the Seed leading to the Messiah and was a legal guarantee that someone in David's line would come to rule "to time indefinite." [Weekly Bible reading; see w89 2/1 p. 14 par. 21-p. 15 par. 22.]

Answer the following questions:

11. What assurance does Psalm 34:18 provide? [w98 4/1 p. 31 par. 2] *Jeh will be*
12. What was indicated by the fact that Joseph was surnamed Barnabas? (Acts 4:36) [w98 4/15 p. 20 par. 3, ftn.] *gone to warm & comfort*
13. Why does the Bible account say that Eli kept honoring his sons more than he honored Jehovah? (1 Sam. 2:12, 22-24, 29) [Weekly Bible reading; see w96 9/15 p. 13 par. 14.] *allowed to do what was to*
14. Why should the book of Ruth strengthen our confidence in the Kingdom promises? [si p. 53 par. 10] *Love of Jehovah*
15. According to 1 Samuel 1:1-7, what outstanding example was set by Samuel's family? [Weekly Bible reading; see w98 3/1 p. 16 par. 12.] *Regularly worshiped*
16. In what sense can it be said that "the power of riches is deceptive"? (Matt. 13:22) [w98 5/15 p. 5 par. 1] *Can not have happiness - keep from relying on Jeh.*

17. How did the older Jonathan display recognition of Jehovah's anointed one, David, and what does this typify today? (1 Sam. 18:1, 3, 4) [Weekly Bible reading; see w89 1/1 pp. 24, 26 pars. 4, 13.]

18. Although he was "blameless and upright," how does the book of Job indicate that this does not mean that Job was perfect? (Job 1:8) [w98 5/1 p. 31 par. 1] *Questioned*

19. What is implied by the expression "exert yourselves vigorously"? (Luke 13:24) [w98 6/15 p. 31 pars. 1, 4] *then usua*

20. As we work along with others, what valuable lesson can be taken to heart, as recorded at 2 Samuel 12:26-28? [Weekly Bible reading; see w93 12/1 p. 19 par. 19] *not make name for self*

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. Jehovah's severe condemnation of Baal worship should impel us to stand clear of the modern-day equivalents of *idolatry*, and *WB*. (Judg. 2:11-18) [si p. 50 par. 26]

22. It was during the days of Samuel that there came to an end the era of the *Judge* and there began the era of *King* that would see Israel finally fall from Jehovah's favor. [si p. 53 par. 1]

23. The divine name, Jehovah, means *to be* and implies that Jehovah can fulfill any role that is required in order to accomplish his *purpose*. [w98 5/1 p. 5 par. 3]

24. Eli and Saul were both failures in that the former *failed* to act and the latter acted *against*. [w98 5/1 p. 57 par. 27]

25. Jesus' parable of the neighborly Samaritan shows that a truly upright person is one who not only obeys God's *law* but also imitates his *love*. (Luke 10:29-37) [w98 7/1 p. 31 par. 2] *qualities*

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. The expansive quality of Jehovah's (wisdom; power; love) is seen in his selecting the Moabitess (Ruth; Naomi; Orpah), a former worshiper of (Baal; Chemosh; Dagon),

who converted to the true religion and became an ancestress of Jesus Christ. (Matt. 1:3, 5, 16) [si p. 51 par. 1]

27. Israel's era of rule by judges ended when (Samuel; David; Saul) was anointed as king and shortly thereafter defeated the (Ammonites; Moabites; Philistines) with Jehovah's backing. (1 Sam. 11:6, 11) [Weekly Bible reading; see w95 12/15 p. 9 par. 2-p. 10 par. 1.]

28. It was (the apostle Paul; his father; his mother and grandmother) who took the lead in educating Timothy in "the holy writings" to the point of seeing him become an excellent missionary and overseer. (2 Tim. 3:14, 15; Phil. 2:19-22) [w98 5/15 p. 8 par. 3-p. 9 par. 5]

29. The youthful ministry of (David; Samuel; Jonathan) should encourage young ones to take up the ministry today, and his continuance without retirement to the end of his days should uphold those weary with age. [si p. 58 par. 30]

30. The period covered by 2 Samuel is from (1077 to about 1040; 1077 to about 1037; 1070 to about 1040) B.C.E. [si p. 59 par. 3]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Judg. 11:30, 31; 1 Sam. 15:22; 30:24, 25; 2 Ki. 6:15-17; Jas. 5:11

31. Jehovah provides assurance that he will use his heavenly armies to protect his people according to his will. [w98 4/15 p. 29 par. 5] *2 Ki 6:15-17*

32. Congregation overseers have the responsibility to abide by their agreements even though it may be painful and costly at times. [w99 9/15 p. 10 pars. 3-4]

33. Maintaining integrity under trial leads to a large reward from Jehovah God. [w98 5/1 p. 31 par. 4] *James 5:11*

34. Genuine love of God requires obedience to divine directives and not merely offering sacrifices to him. [Weekly Bible reading; see w96 6/15 p. 5 par. 1.] *1 Sam 15:22*

35. Jehovah shows deep appreciation for those who serve in supportive roles in his organization today. [Weekly Bible reading; see w86 9/1 p. 28 par. 4.] *30:24, 25*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ **Literature offer for August:** Any of the following 32-page brochures may be used: *Does God Really Care About Us?*, *Enjoy Life on Earth Forever!*, *Should You Believe in the Trinity?*, *The Divine Name That Will Endure Forever*, *The Government That Will Bring Paradise*, *What Happens to Us When We Die?*, *What Is the Purpose of Life—How Can You Find It?*, and *When Someone You Love Dies*. The brochures *A Book for All People*, *Our Problems—Who Will Help Us Solve Them?*, *Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You?*, *Do They Really Exist?*, and *Will There Ever Be a World Without War?* may be offered where appropriate. **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here?* By Evolution or by Creation? **October:** *The Watchtower and Awake!* magazines. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. Starting in the latter part of the month, *Kingdom News* No. 36, "The New Millennium—What Does the Future Hold for You?" will be distributed. **November:** Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36 will continue. Congregations that complete their territory by reaching householders in each home or dwelling with a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36 may offer the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge*

book. If people already have these, either the *Live Forever* book or the *Creation* book may be used.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on September 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the 2001 *Calendar of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their September literature request. The calendars will be available in Afrikaans, Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, East Armenian, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, and Ukrainian.

■ An adequate supply of forms for use during the 2001 service year is being sent to each congregation. Please use these forms with discretion. They should be used only for their intended purpose.

■ The annual inventory of all literature and magazines on hand should be taken on or as close to August 31, 2000, as possible. This inventory is similar to the actual count taken

monthly by the literature coordinator, and the totals should be entered on the Literature Inventory form (S-18). The total number of magazines on hand can be obtained from the magazine servants in each congregation in the literature group. Each coordinating congregation will receive three Literature Inventory forms (S-18). Please mail the original to the Society no later than September 6. Keep a carbon copy for your files. The third copy may be used as a work sheet. The secretary of the coordinating congregation should supervise the inventory. The secretary and the presiding overseer of the coordinating congregation will sign the form.

■ From August 25, 2000, to August 26, 2000, the Society will be taking an inventory of all literature on hand at Brooklyn Bethel. Because of this inventory, no congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup during those days.

■ New Publications Available:
Does God Really Care About Us?

—Malayalam, Nepali

Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?

—Swedish

Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23)

—Slovenian

What Do Jehovah's Witnesses Believe? (Tract No. 14)

—Hindi

What Does God Require of Us?

—Solomon Islands Pidgin

New Special Assembly Day Program

"Become Full-Grown in Powers of Understanding" is the theme of the special assembly day program beginning in September 2000. (1 Cor. 14: 20) Why will it be valuable for us to attend? We live in a world that is filled with badness. To resist this, we must develop our powers of spiritual understanding so that we can conquer the evil with the good. That is what the special assembly day program will help us to do.

In the opening session, the circuit overseer will discuss "Aids to Becoming Full-Grown in Bible Understanding." He will show us how to become stabilized in Christian

faith. The visiting speaker will highlight how actual use, or application, of Bible principles is vital in developing keen perception, as he speaks on the theme "Safeguard Spirituality by Training Your Perceptive Powers."

Young people too must develop powers of understanding. This will be discussed in the parts "Why Be Babes as to Badness" and "Youths Who Acquire Understanding Now." Hear youths tell what they do to fortify themselves spiritually so that they can control any curiosity about the world's wicked activities and avoid trouble.

How are we to find the great-

est happiness in life? The visiting speaker will explain this in the concluding talk "Benefit From Applying Bible Principles With Understanding." He will give examples to show that applying God's Word helps us deal with problems, make decisions, and truly benefit from what Jehovah is teaching us.

Those who wish to symbolize their dedication to God by water baptism at the assembly should inform the presiding overseer as soon as possible. Mark your calendar as soon as the date of the special assembly day is announced, and make definite plans to benefit from this rich program. Do not miss any part of the special assembly day! It will fortify you to endure this evil system and remain faithful to Jehovah.

Meetings Benefit Young People

¹A teenage girl stated: "Sometimes I think young people have the hardest time in life. We are around people who commit fornication, do drugs, and drink." Is that how you feel? If so, what do you think will help you fight these bad influences? You need faith, strong faith in the rightness of Jehovah's ways, for without that ("it is impossible to please him well.") (Heb. 11:6) Attending congregation meetings will help you strengthen your Christian conviction and determination to avoid what is bad.

²**Meetings Have a Lot to Offer You:** What makes a good meal with close friends enjoyable? Is it not the combination of wholesome food and pleasant company in a relaxed atmosphere? Well, our meetings offer the same pleasant experience, but in a spiritual sense.

³The things that are discussed at the meetings are up-building, ranging from matters dealing with everyday problems of life to studies of fascinating Bible prophecies. Practical instruction is presented that teaches you how to live the best way of life and to meet the challenges that come your way. The companions found at the meetings are the best anywhere, and the spiritual atmosphere is pleasant and safe. (Ps. 133:1) No wonder that one youth said: "I go to school all day long, and it tears me down. But the meetings are like an oasis in the desert, where I am refreshed to make it through the next school day." Another said: "I have found that close association with others who love Jehovah helps me to stay close to him.")

⁴By being ^{think?}enrolled in the Theocratic Ministry School, you learn to gather Biblical information, develop it into a talk, and then present it in a conversational manner before a Kingdom Hall audience. Imagine the benefit of being trained to teach the lifesaving truths in God's Word skillfully! Where else can young people acquire such valuable training?

⁵**How to Get the Most Out of Meetings:** To get the most benefit from the meetings, there are three vital things involved. These are preparation, participation, and practice.

⁶**Prepare for Them:** Schedule time to prepare for the meetings on a regular basis. Do not allow schoolwork, a part-time job, or recreational activities to rob you of the time you need to review in advance the material that will be discussed at each meeting. It helps to have a good routine. First and foremost, keep up with the weekly Bible reading schedule for the Theocratic Ministry School. It takes just a few minutes each day to read and meditate on the assigned chapters. Set aside time to prepare for the Congregation Book Study and the Watchtower Study. Some do this at least a day or two before those meetings. To the extent possible, do the same for the parts that are scheduled in the Service Meeting each week.

⁷**Participate in Them:** The Bible says that ^{know of}at the age of 12, Jesus was found at the temple, listening, asking questions, and giving answers. (Luke 2:46, 47) In other words, he was totally involved. You will benefit more from the meetings

when you put forth the effort to participate in them.—Prov. 15:23. *man has reputation in answer of his mouth*

⁸You need to concentrate actively on what is being taught at the meetings. Sometimes, listening to a talk is harder than giving one. Why? Your mind may wander when someone else is speaking. How can you combat this? By taking notes. Jot down important points that you want to refer to later. Note-taking will help you keep your mind focused on the program. Also, look up the scriptures, and follow along as these are read by the speaker.

⁹Additionally, make it a goal to have a share in each question-and-answer discussion at the meetings. You will benefit even more if you give careful thought to what you want to say. Proverbs 15:28 says: ("The heart of the righteous one meditates so as to answer.")

¹⁰**Practice What You Learn:** The final step is to make sure that what you learn is "at work in you." (1 Thess. 2:13) As you apply the fine points you learn at each meeting, you will draw closer to Jehovah God. He will be real to you, and you will experience great joy and satisfaction as you "go on walking in the truth," making it your own.—3 John 4. *Answer to myself*

¹¹Young brothers and sisters, as you regularly prepare for the meetings, participate in them, and put into practice what you learn, you will enjoy the meetings to the full. At the same time, you will get all the benefit you can from them. Your faith will be strengthened, as will your resolve to remain true to your heavenly Father, Jehovah.—Ps. 145:18.

Job is there, just need

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

September 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 9/00 Vol. 43, No. 9

Jehovah's Blessing Makes Us Rich

¹ A person's success is often measured by the size of his paycheck. That is why many people view those with money as being the happiest and most fulfilled. However, people who feel that money can buy happiness are sadly mistaken. (Ecc. 5: 12) There is no lasting joy for those "determined to be rich" in a material way. (1 Tim. 6:9) In contrast, Jehovah's servants are truly joyful and are the richest people in the world. (Prov. 10:22; Rev. 2:9) How so?

² **Evidence of Our Riches:** We possess rich spiritual insight and an understanding of God's Word, the Bible. Through his earthly organization, Jehovah continually teaches us about himself and his Son, to our

lasting benefit. Accurate understanding makes it possible for us to draw close to Jehovah and enjoy an intimate relationship with him. (Jas. 4:8) Discerning good from bad and following God's laws shields us from certain diseases and dangers. We have confidence that Jehovah will provide for us, resulting in godly contentment and peace of mind.—Matt. 6:33.

³ We enjoy peace and unity within our spiritual brotherhood because we cultivate the fruitage of God's spirit. United by a strong bond of love, we need never feel abandoned by God or by our brothers when we face calamity.—Gal. 6:10.

⁴ Our lives have real meaning and purpose. We count it a

marvelous privilege to share in the global preaching of the good news. This brings lasting joy as we help others to come into a good relationship with God and serve unitedly with us in pure worship. Our priceless treasure of the ministry brings honor to Jehovah and gives us the satisfaction of contributing toward the sanctification of his name. We maintain a positive mental attitude, knowing that our hope for the future will soon be realized.

⁵ **Showing Our Appreciation:** May we be ever appreciative of Jehovah's blessings, which make us truly the richest people on earth. (Prov. 22:4) Taking time each day to meditate on what we have moves us to thank Jehovah for his generous love and to continue giving him our exclusive devotion.

Lives Are at Stake!

gone saved?
¹ The Bible makes clear Jehovah's will ("that all sorts of men should be saved.") However, it is also true that the life prospects of earth's billions depend upon their attitude toward Jehovah God and his Kingdom by Jesus Christ. A proper attitude can be based only on "accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2: 3, 4) While giving notice that soon the earth will be cleansed of all wickedness in order to make way for God's new world of righteousness, we have also been commissioned to carry on a vital lifesaving work.—Matt. 24:14; 28:19, 20; Rom. 10:13-15.

² **Why So Urgent?** Jesus gave warning about a "great tribulation such as has not occurred since the world's beginning."

(Matt. 24:21) That tribulation will reach its climax at Armageddon. (Rev. 16:16) The masses of people facing annihilation if they fail to respond to the good news include our unbelieving relatives, neighbors, workmates, schoolmates, and acquaintances. But our concern is to reach out to "all sorts of men" in imitation of God, who manifested his love for the entire world of mankind by giving his Son, Jesus Christ, as a ransom for all. (John 3:16) We must zealously endeavor to invite all to flee to God's place of safety. By fully carrying out the preaching work, we can avoid bloodguilt.—Ezek. 33:1-7; 1 Cor. 9:16.

³ **What Is Our Objective?** The importance of the preaching

work is stressed throughout God's Word. As expressed by the apostle Paul, ("the love the Christ has compels us") to live in harmony with God's ways. (2 Cor. 5:14) Additionally, *The Watchtower* often emphasizes our obligation to preach. Our Kingdom Ministry continually provides direction on how to get the preaching work done. The elders organize the work and encourage us to participate in it. Fellow publishers invite us to share with them in the ministry. We hear much about preparing our presentations, offering magazines and other literature, making return visits, conducting Bible studies, and using every opportunity to give a witness. All of this helps us in accomplishing the objective of saving lives.—1 Cor. 9:22, 23; Eph. 1:13.

Aug 28 ... 14 3 calms for fine work

Week Starting September 11

Song 139

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

15 min: "Jehovah's Blessing Makes Us Rich." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.—See *Insight*, Volume 2, page 804, paragraphs 6-7.

20 min: "Use Current Events to Stir Interest." Audience discussion and demonstrations. Mention several current events that have created interest locally. What concerns about the future have these generated? Using the *Reasoning* book, pages 10-11, offer some suggestions on how to prepare an introduction that will lead into a Bible discussion. Have two practical, well-prepared demonstrations.

Song 224 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 18

Song 2

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: How Did We Do Last Year? Talk by the service overseer. Review highlights from the congregation report for the 2000 service year. Give commendation for good things accomplished. Point out areas where improvement may be needed. Focus on how the congregation has done in meeting attendance, starting and conducting Bible studies, and being regular in field service. Outline practical goals for the coming year.

20 min: "Lives Are at Stake!" Audience discussion. Highlight the scriptures cited in the article. Song 30 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting September 25

Song 93

15 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for September. Review Question Box.

15 min: Local needs.

15 min: Our Magazines Do Not Lose Their Value. What do you do when older issues of *The Watch-*

tower and *Awake!* accumulate? Some publishers are inclined to discard them, thinking that the subjects are no longer current. Instead, the September 1993 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 3, urged us to carry some older issues and offer them when appropriate. You can pick out timely articles that might appeal to men, women, professional people, the elderly, and teenagers; then have the magazines ready to present when an opportunity arises. Demonstrate how articles might be selected and presented. Relate successful experiences that the publishers have had in placing older magazines.

Song 115 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 2

Song 169

15 min: Local announcements. Inform congregation about special distribution planned for *Kingdom News* No. 36, which will start on Monday, October 16, and continue through Friday, November 17. Urge all, including young and newer ones, to reach out to have a full share. Study conductors should begin now to encourage and organize all in their group to participate as zealously as possible. Include upbuilding experiences from the last *Kingdom News* distribution.

15 min: "Should I Move?" Talk by an elder. Explain why there is a need to exercise discernment in making a decision to move elsewhere. Discuss how to apply the counsel found at Proverbs 22:3. Include comments on cautions found in the August 15, 1988, *Watchtower*, page 22.

15 min: Experiences in Starting Conversations. In the Service Meeting program for the week of September 11, it was recommended that we develop introductions about current events to stir interest and start conversations in the ministry. Invite the audience to relate the good results they have enjoyed thus far by applying these suggestions. Song 205 and concluding prayer.

■ Literature offer for **September:** *Life—How Did It Get Here?* By *Evolution or by Creation?* **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. Starting in the latter part of the month, *Kingdom News* No. 36 will be distributed. **November:** Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36 will continue. Congregations that complete their territory by reaching householders in each dwelling with a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36 may offer the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. If people already have these, either the *Live Forever* book or the *Creation* book may be used. **December:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* with the *New World Translation*.

■ The telephone area code for the region in which the Society's facilities are located in Patterson and Wallkill, New York, has been changed. The new area code is 845. The area code for Brooklyn, New York, remains 718.

■ U.S. Selective Service regulations require that all men register at the post office when reaching 18 years of age. All of those required to do so should take care of the matter promptly, viewing it as a Christian's obligation to the superior authorities. Elders will want to have this in mind and give appropriate reminders to young brothers nearing the age of 18. Questions as to the young Christian's responsibilities in this regard may be answered by the elders.

■ The elders are reminded to follow through on instructions given on pages 21-3 of the April 15, 1991, *Watchtower*, regarding any disfellowshipped

(Continued on p. 3, col. 1)

JUNE SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	126	123.5	102.2	54.9 4.6
Pios.	88,867	62.2	43.1	20.1 1.6
Aux. Pios.	22,272	49.4	35.9	12.4 0.9
Pubs.	810,753	9.1	7.9	3.4 0.3
TOTAL	922,018			Baptized: 4,214

Announcements (Continued)

or disassociated ones who may be inclined toward becoming reinstated.

■ Those associated with a congregation should send all new and renewal subscriptions for *The Watchtower* and *Awake!*, including their personal subscriptions, through the congregation.

■ The Society does not fill individual publisher's requests for literature. The presiding overseer should arrange for an announcement to be made *each month* before the congregation monthly request for literature is sent to the Society so that all interested in obtaining personal literature items may advise the brother handling literature. Please keep in mind which publications are special-request items.

■ Effective August 29, 2000, the Society is establishing two sign language circuits. These circuits will be served by traveling overseers who are conversant with American Sign Language.

■ Beginning with the September 1, 2000, issue, *The Watchtower* will be available in the Azerbaijani and Tumbuka languages as monthly editions.

■ New Publications Available:

"All Scripture"—Authentic and Beneficial (Brochure for use in 2000 Theocratic Ministry School) —Samoan
Apply Yourself to Reading and Writing —New Guinea Pidgin

Bible —Amharic, Bengali, Bulgarian, Hebrew, Igbo, Malayalam, Samoan, Tamil, Tigrinya, Twi

Bible (Greek Scriptures only)

—Lithuanian

Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? —Thai

Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23)

—Laotian, Turkish

Jehovah's Witnesses—Proclaimers of God's Kingdom —Shona

Jesus Christ—Who Is He? (Tract No. 24)

—English

Life in a Peaceful New World (Tract No. 15)

—Tahitian

My Book of Bible Stories (Small size)

—Urdu

Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!

—Armenian, Finnish, Gun, Hindi, Serbian, Turkish

Should You Believe in the Trinity?

—Kannada

Spirits of the Dead—Can They Help You or Harm You? Do They Really Exist?

—Bambara

■ New Audiocassettes Available:

Album of Greek Scriptures (19 cassettes) —Dutch

Families—Make Daily Bible Reading Your Way of Life! (Drama, single cassette) —Greek, Japanese, Swedish, Ukrainian

Deuteronomy (set of two cassettes)

—Dutch

Joshua (set of two cassettes) —Dutch

Judges and Ruth (set of two cassettes)

—Dutch

Keep Your Eye Simple (Drama, single cassette) —Korean

Marked for Survival (Drama, single cassette) —Korean

The Watchtower in Korean will be available on audiocassette beginning with the September 1, 2000, issue.

■ New Videocassettes Available:

Sing Praises to Jehovah—On Videocassette, Volume 2 —American Sign Language

Warning Examples for Our Day—On Videocassette —American Sign Language

When Someone You Love Dies—On Videocassette —American Sign Language

QUESTION BOX

■ Why is it beneficial for the audience to look up scriptures when invited to do so by a speaker during his discourse?

Factors such as the subject being discussed and whether the talk includes a verse-by-verse consideration of a portion of God's Word will determine the number of scriptures the audience may be invited to look up.

It is important to keep in mind that one reason for looking up scriptures is to confirm that what is being said is from the Bible. (Acts 17:11) Another objective is to examine the Scriptural evidence in support of what is being discussed so that the faith of all is strengthened. Seeing what the Bible actually says while a key text is read will make a double impression on the mind. In ad-

dition to looking up scriptures, taking notes and keeping up with the flow of ideas being expressed is beneficial.

While the Society's outline may cite a generous number of Scriptural texts in developing a subject, these are provided for the benefit of the speaker, to help him with his preparation. These may give background information and otherwise help him to get the underlying Scriptural principles well in mind and to understand the development of the subject. The speaker determines which texts are vital to the development of the talk and invites the audience to follow along with him as such texts are read and explained. Other texts that lend support to the material may be mentioned and paraphrased, but in such cases the audience does not necessarily have to look them up.

When the speaker reads selected scriptures, he does so directly from the Bible, not from a computer-generated printout. When the speaker invites the audience to read along, he clearly states the Bible book, the chapter, and the verse(s). By pausing to raise a question or to comment briefly on why the text is to be read, he allows time for the audience to find the scripture. Repeating the citation will also help the audience remember the reference. It is not recommended, however, to mention a page number, since these vary depending on the particular Bible edition that individuals in the audience are using. Looking up scriptures when invited to do so helps the audience benefit from the power of God's Word as it is explained during the discourse. —Heb. 4:12.

Use Current Events to Stir Interest

¹ Would you like to have a continuous supply of good ideas that will keep your ministry fresh and stir people's interest in the Bible's message? Then use what is happening on the world scene and in your community to start conversations. You could draw on current local and national events or international news items. These things are ever-changing. (1 Cor. 7:31) Consider the following examples.

² *Economic problems and the cost of living are real concerns of people. Thus, you might say:*

■ "Did you hear on the news that [mention item] prices are rising again?" Or you might comment about unemployment if a large firm has laid off many workers. Depending on

how you want to proceed with the discussion, you can follow up by asking either "Have you ever wondered why it is so hard to make a living?" or "Do you think that it will always be hard to make ends meet?"

³ *Reports of violence, such as tragedies in families or among school students, provide a basis for another discussion. You could ask:*

■ "Did you read in the newspaper that [name tragedy in the community]?" Then ask either "What do you think is the cause for so much violence in the world?" or "Do you think a time will ever come when we can feel secure?"

⁴ *News of devastating floods, earthquakes, or civil unrest in*

different parts of the world also offers material that stirs interest. For example, you might ask:

■ "Is God responsible for [name natural disaster]?" Or you could point to the latest outbreak of civil unrest and say: "If everybody wants peace, why is it so hard to achieve?"

⁵ Remain alert to current events that you can use in your introduction. Helpful suggestions are found under "Current Events," on pages 10-11, in the *Reasoning* book. However, avoid taking sides on political or social issues. Instead, direct attention to the Scriptures and God's Kingdom as the only permanent solution to mankind's problems.

"Should I Move?"

¹ In response to Jesus' command to "go . . . make disciples of people of all the nations," many dedicated servants of Jehovah have moved to serve where the need is greater. (Matt. 28:19) They are imitating Paul, who responded to the call: "Step over into Macedonia and help us." (Acts 16:9) How can this be done in a practical way?

² **Proceed One Step at a Time:** Is there seldom-worked territory within your congregation? If so, you might concentrate your efforts on those areas. Before deciding to go elsewhere, consult with your elders to see if they feel that you are equipped to make a move. You might also ask your circuit overseer if he knows of a nearby congregation where you could expand your ministry. On the other hand, after carefully counting the cost, you may wish to consider help-

ing in another part of the country or in a different land. If this is your desire, you *along with your body of elders* should write to the branch office where you are interested in serving, outlining your theocratic background. It may be wise to visit the area before deciding whether or not to make a permanent move.

³ **Be Cautious About Immigrating:** An increasing number of our brothers are moving to other lands because they are seeking either a better standard of living or relief from oppression. In the process, some have fallen prey to unscrupulous individuals who promise to help them get settled in the new land but who only take their money and then abandon them. In some cases these individuals even try to force the immigrants into immoral servitude. When they refuse, they are left

at the mercy of the country they have entered. Thus the situation of the immigrants has become worse than it was in their homeland. They may even need to ask the brothers to house and otherwise assist them, putting a burden on other Christian families who are contending with their own problems and difficulties. Members of some households have been physically separated from one another, and families have been spiritually weakened by such ill-advised moves.—1 Tim. 6:8-11.

⁴ If you want to make a move for personal advantage, keep in mind that no matter where you live, there are problems to be faced. It is easier to overcome problems where you already know the language and the culture, rather than starting anew in unfamiliar surroundings.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

October 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 10/00 Vol. 43, No. 10

Be Attentive to the Marvelous Works of God

¹ For three splendid days, we gathered at the “Doers of God’s Word” District Convention. We turned our attention away from the everyday cares of life and concentrated on the marvelous works of Jehovah. The program was designed to increase our faith in God and his Word, to strengthen our relationship with him, and to intensify our zeal for the ministry. How are we benefiting from the things we were taught?—John 13:17.

² **Families Obey God’s Word:** The symposium “Be Obedient to God’s Word” helped us to examine the spiritual condition of our families. Children love to learn. Thus, godly parents were encouraged to make the family Bible study the foundation

for building a spiritually strong household. Many family heads are discussing with their little ones the new brochure *You Can Be God’s Friend!* This will help them to develop a happy and secure relationship with Jehovah. Parents, teach your children how to be attentive to the feelings of God. Be expressive in your own love for him and his doings. (Ps. 103:2) Work together to set and attain spiritual goals and to be fully involved in serving Jehovah.

³ **God’s Word Lights Our Way:** We were delighted to receive the new book *Isaiah’s Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I*. How far along are you in reading this first volume? The book of Isa-

iah foretells the dark judgments for ungodly nations as well as the bright Kingdom blessings for God’s people. (Isa. 34:2; 35:10) It also builds faith and confidence in Jehovah and in his way of doing things.—Isa. 12:2-5.

⁴ When reading *Isaiah’s Prophecy I*, early on you can sense how Isaiah maintained his integrity to Jehovah while wickedness surrounded him. When extended an invitation to be God’s messenger, Isaiah replied: “Here I am! Send me.” (Isa. 6:8) Meditating on his willing spirit will encourage you to keep preaching the good news, having a full share in bearing “witness to all the nations.”—Matt. 24:14.

⁵ Our being attentive to Jehovah’s works will magnify his greatness. So cherish the privilege of being doers of God’s word!

Tools That Educate, Motivate, and Strengthen

¹ They are powerful for educating people about the Bible and Jehovah’s Witnesses. They have motivated many to take a firm stand for the truth. They have strengthened the faith and the appreciation of God’s dedicated people. What are they? The videos produced by Jehovah’s organization. Have you viewed all ten of them? How recently? Do you use them in your ministry? The release of the 11th video, *Our Whole Association of Brothers*, was announced at the district convention. Have you ordered it? How can you benefit all the more from these wonderful tools?

² The July 1, 1999, *Watchtower* article “Regularly Study God’s Word as a Family” made the recommendation to “set aside part of your study time to watch a portion of one of the Society’s instructive videos . . . and then discuss it.” In harmony with that good advice, a different video will be featured on the Service Meeting every other month. We encourage everyone in the congregation to watch the video at home prior to when it will be discussed at the Service Meeting.

³ This month we begin with the first video that we produced, *Jehovah’s Witnesses*

The Organization Behind the Name. Watch and listen for the answers to these questions:

- For what are Jehovah’s Witnesses best known? *Preaching*
- Everything done at Bethel is linked to what scripture?
- What Bible scene did you see, being staged, photographed, and painted for use in the publications?
- What impresses you about the way our literature is prepared?
- From 1920 to 1990, how many pieces of literature were printed by the Society?
- Who especially among God’s people should reach out to qualify for Bethel service?—Prov. 20:29.

(Continued on p. 7, col. 3)

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting October 9

Song 11

8 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

12 min: "Be Attentive to the Marvelous Works of God." Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion. Point out a few illustrations in the new book that build appreciation for Isaiah's prophecy.

25 min: "The New Millennium—What Does the Future Hold for You?" Enthusiastic discussion by service overseer. After reading the announcement provided in the Society's July 3, 2000, letter to the elders, distribute one copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36 to each person in attendance. Then proceed with a question-and-answer discussion of the article. Outline local arrangements for complete coverage of the territory. Consider how to help new ones and children to qualify as unbaptized publishers. Demonstrate a brief presentation. Stress the need for everyone to share fully in this campaign.

Song 53 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 16

Song 104

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Remind publishers that during weekend activity the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines are to be featured along with *Kingdom News* No. 36.

15 min: "Tools That Educate, Motivate, and Strengthen." (Paragraphs 1 and 2 only.) A talk. Briefly review the history of the Society's entry into video production. (See *Proclaimers* book, pages 600-601.) Encourage everyone to view the video *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of October 30. Those who have the video can share it with others who do not have it, or perhaps they can watch it together.

20 min: All of Us Can Demonstrate the Pioneer Spirit. Discussion be-

tween a book study conductor and his assistant, based on the October 15, 1997, *Watchtower*, pages 22-3. Consider why it would be good to have more pioneers in the congregation and how all can contribute toward reaching this goal. Also discuss ways to encourage those presently pioneering to continue and how all in the congregation can build up zeal for the ministry. Song 131 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 23

Song 150

10 min: Local announcements.

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: Prepare Well for Meetings. Talk and audience discussion. The benefit we derive from meetings depends a great deal on how much effort we put into preparation. Review practical suggestions offered in the March 1, 1998, *Watchtower*, pages 15-16, paragraphs 8-11. Invite the audience to make comments showing how they develop the necessary initiative and find the time needed to prepare well.

Song 211 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting October 30

Song 167

8 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for October.

12 min: Experiences Offering *Kingdom News* No. 36. Ask a variety of publishers to relate encouraging results they have enjoyed so far in distributing *Kingdom News* No. 36. Invite regular and auxiliary pioneers to express their appreciation for the increased activity during this campaign and the opportunity they have to work with many different publishers.

25 min: *Jehovah's Witnesses—The Organization Behind the Name*. Audience discussion. Consider the questions provided in paragraph 3 of "Tools That Educate, Motivate, and Strengthen." Offer suggestions on how the video can be used to help interested ones get better acquainted with our organization. In-

clude one or two brief experiences.

—See the October 1, 1992, *Watchtower*, pages 30-1.

Song 15 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 6

Song 198

15 min: Local announcements. Review progress of *Kingdom News* No. 36 distribution. Report on how much territory has been worked thus far and what will be needed to complete coverage by November 17.

20 min: What Do We Believe? A brother makes a return visit on a person who asked, "What do Jehovah's Witnesses teach that makes them different from other religions?" Discuss points covered in the box on page 6 in the October 1, 1998, *Watchtower*. Explain how other religions ignore or reject these basic Bible truths in favor of man-made teachings.

10 min: Singing—An Important Part of Our Worship. A book study conductor converses with two publishers about their singing at congregation meetings. He has noticed that their singing seems to be somewhat subdued. He shares some points from the February 1, 1997, *Watchtower*, pages 27-8. They analyze the lyrics of one of the songs to be sung at the *Watchtower* Study for the current week, as suggested in the July 1, 1999, *Watchtower*, page 20, paragraph 12. By taking singing seriously, we put life into expressing heartfelt praise to Jehovah. Song 223 and concluding prayer.

JULY SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Average Hrs.	Average Mags.	Average R.V.	Average Bt.St.
Sp'l Pios.	122	116.1	99.7	53.0 4.6
Pios.	88,441	60.2	40.7	19.4 1.6
Aux. Pios.	21,712	50.0	35.4	11.9 0.8
Pubs.	824,775	9.3	8.1	3.4 0.3
TOTAL	935,050			Baptized: 6,093

The total of 88,441 regular pioneers and the combined total of 110,153 regular and auxiliary pioneers are the highest ever reported for the month of July!

INSTRUCTIONS

During 2001 the following will be the arrangements when conducting the Theocratic Ministry School.

SOURCE MATERIAL: The *New World Translation of the Holy Scriptures* [bi12], *The Watchtower* [w], “*All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial*” (1990 Edition) [si], and *Reasoning From the Scriptures* [rs] will be the basis for assignments.

The school should begin **ON TIME** with song, prayer, and a brief welcome. There is no need to give a preview of what is on the program. As the school overseer introduces each part, he will mention the subject to be developed. Proceed as follows:

ASSIGNMENT NO. 1: 15 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant, and it will be based on *The Watchtower* or “*All Scripture Is Inspired of God and Beneficial*.” When based on *The Watchtower*, this assignment should be delivered as a 15-minute instruction talk with no oral review; when based on the “*All Scripture*” book, it should be delivered as a 10- to 12-minute talk, followed by a 3- to 5-minute oral review using the printed questions in the publication. The objective should be not just to cover the material but to focus attention on the *practical value* of the information being discussed, highlighting what will be most helpful to the congregation. The theme shown should be used.

The brothers assigned this talk should be careful to *keep within the time limit*. Private counsel may be given if necessary or if requested by the speaker.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM BIBLE READING: 6 minutes. This should be handled by an elder or a ministerial servant who will effectively apply the material to local needs. No theme is necessary. This should not be just a summary of the assigned reading. A 30- to 60-second overall review of the assigned chapters may be included. The principal objective, however, is to help the audience to appreciate *why* and *how* the information is of value to us. The students will then be dismissed to their various classrooms by the school overseer.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 2: 5 minutes. This is a Bible reading of the assigned material to be given by a brother, whether the student is in the main school or in an auxiliary school. The reading assignments are usually short enough to permit the students to present brief explanatory information in the opening and concluding remarks. Historical background, prophetic or doctrinal significance, and application of principles may be included. *All* the assigned verses should be read without a break. Of course, when the verses to be read are not consecutive, the student may cite the verse where the reading continues.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 3: 5 minutes. This will be assigned to a sister. The subject for this presentation will be based on *Reasoning From the Scriptures*. The setting may be an informal witness, a return visit, or a home Bible study, and the participants may be either seated or standing. The school overseer will be particularly interested in the way the student develops the assigned theme and helps the householder to reason on the scriptures. The student assigned this part should know how to read. One assistant will be scheduled by the school overseer, but an additional assistant may be used. Not the setting but the effective use of the Bible should be given prime consideration.

ASSIGNMENT NO. 4: 5 minutes. The subject for this assignment will be based on *Reasoning From the Scriptures*. A brother or a sister may be given Assignment No. 4. When assigned to a brother, it should always be a talk. When assigned to a sister, it should be presented as outlined for Assignment No. 3.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE: Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to follow the weekly Bible reading schedule, which amounts to reading about one page a day.

NOTE: For additional information and instruction regarding counsel, timing, written reviews, and the preparation of assignments, please see page 3 of the October 1996 *Our Kingdom Ministry*.

SCHEDULE

Jan. 1 Bible reading: 2 Kings 13-16

Song No. 62

No. 1: An Act of Forgiveness Opens the Way for Salvation
(w99 1/1 pp. 30-1)

No. 2: 2 Kings 14:1-14

No. 3: Abortion—Why Forbidden? (rs pp. 25-6 par. 4)

No. 4: Responding to Someone Who Says: 'I Have a Right to
Decide on Matters Affecting My Own Body'
(rs p. 26 par. 5)

Jan. 8 Bible reading: 2 Kings 17-20

Song No. 116

No. 1: Counsel That Is Easier to Accept (w99 1/15 pp. 21-4)

No. 2: 2 Kings 18:1-16

No. 3: Adam and Eve—Actual Historical People?
(rs pp. 27-8 par. 5)

No. 4: Responding to Someone Who Says: 'Adam's Sin Was
God's Will, God's Plan' (rs p. 29 pars. 1-2)

Jan. 15 Bible reading: 2 Kings 21-25

Song No. 61

No. 1: 2 Kings—Why Beneficial (si p. 74 pars. 33-6)

No. 2: 2 Kings 21:1-16

No. 3: Why Is Ancestor Worship Futile? (rs pp. 29-31 par. 3)

No. 4: Why Ancestor Worship Displeases Jehovah God
(rs p. 31 par. 4-p. 32 par. 1)

Jan. 22 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 1-5

Song No. 16

No. 1: Introduction to 1 Chronicles (si pp. 75-6 pars. 1-7)

No. 2: 1 Chronicles 1:1-27

No. 3: Who Are the Antichrists? (rs pp. 32-3)

No. 4: Identifying Apostates (rs pp. 34-6 par. 1)

Jan. 29 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 6-10

Song No. 73

No. 1: How True Humility Can Be Shown (w99 2/1 pp. 6-7)

No. 2: 1 Chronicles 9:1-21

No. 3: What Should Be Our Attitude Toward Apostates?
(rs p. 36 par. 2-p. 37 par. 2)

No. 4: Christ Did Not Build Church on Peter (rs pp. 37-9 par. 3)

Feb. 5 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 11-16

Song No. 65

No. 1: Be a Source of Encouragement (w99 2/15 pp. 26-9)

No. 2: 1 Chronicles 11:1-19

No. 3: What Were the Keys Peter Used?
(rs p. 39 par. 4-p. 41 par. 5)

No. 4: "Apostolic Successors" Not True Christians
(rs p. 42 par. 1-p. 44 par. 3)

Feb. 12 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 17-23

Song No. 122

No. 1: Gird Yourselves With Lowliness of Mind
(w99 3/1 pp. 30-1)

No. 2: 1 Chronicles 18:1-17

No. 3: Where Will Armageddon Be Fought? (rs pp. 44-6 par. 3)

No. 4: Who and What Will Be Destroyed at Armageddon?
(rs p. 46 par. 4-p. 47 par. 2)

Feb. 19 Bible reading: 1 Chronicles 24-29

Song No. 119

No. 1: 1 Chronicles—Why Beneficial (si pp. 78-9 pars. 22-5)

No. 2: 1 Chronicles 29:1-13

No. 3: Who Will Survive Armageddon? (rs p. 47 pars. 3-8)

No. 4: Armageddon—No Violation of God's Love
(rs p. 48 pars. 1-3)

Feb. 26 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 1-5

Song No. 168

No. 1: Introduction to 2 Chronicles (si pp. 79-80 pars. 1-6)

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 1:1-17

No. 3: No Neutral Position Possible at Armageddon
(rs p. 48 pars. 4-7)

No. 4: Whose Influence Is Pushing Nations Toward the
Armageddon Situation? (rs p. 48 par. 8-p. 49 par. 1)

Mar. 5 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 6-9

Song No. 103

No. 1: Do Not Be Overcome by Anxiety (w99 3/15 pp. 21-3)

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 8:1-16

No. 3: Identifying the Babylon of Revelation (rs p. 49 pars. 2-3)

No. 4: For What Was Ancient Babylon Noted?
(rs p. 50 par. 1-p. 51 par. 5)

Mar. 12 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 10-15

Song No. 59

No. 1: Who Molds Your Thinking? (w99 4/1 pp. 20-2)

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 10:1-16

No. 3: Why Professed Christian Religions Are Part of Babylon
the Great (rs p. 52 par. 1-p. 53 par. 1)

No. 4: Why It Is Urgent to Get Out of Babylon the Great
(rs p. 53 pars. 2-7)

Mar. 19 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 16-20

Song No. 69

No. 1: Protect Your Heart From the Spirit of Baal Worship
(w99 4/1 pp. 28-31)

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 16:1-14

No. 3: What Baptism Is, and Why Believers Get Baptized
(rs p. 54 pars. 1-4)

No. 4: Christian Baptism—Not by Sprinkling, Not for Infants
(rs p. 54 par. 5-p. 55 par. 4)

Mar. 26 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 21-25

Song No. 212

No. 1: Do Not Hold Back From Expressing Appreciation
(w99 4/15 pp. 15-17)

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 22:1-12

No. 3: Water Baptism Does Not Forgive Sins
(rs p. 55 par. 5-p. 56 par. 1)

No. 4: Who Is Baptized With Holy Spirit?
(rs p. 56 par. 2-p. 57 par. 3)

Apr. 2 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 26-29

Song No. 49

No. 1: Does God Work in "Crooked" Ways? (w99 5/1 pp. 28-9)

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 28:1-15

No. 3: Baptism by Fire Not Same as by Holy Spirit
(rs p. 57 par. 4-p. 58 par. 2)

No. 4: Reasons for Considering the Bible (rs pp. 58-60 par. 2)

Apr. 9 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 30-33

Song No. 1

No. 1: How Can Humans Bless Jehovah God? (w99 5/15 pp. 21-4)

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 33:1-13

No. 3: Proof From Isaiah and Jeremiah of the Bible's
Inspiration (rs p. 60 par. 3-p. 61 par. 3)

No. 4: Fulfillment of Jesus' Prophecies Prove Bible's Inspiration
(rs p. 61 par. 4-p. 62 par. 1)

Apr. 16 Bible reading: 2 Chronicles 34-36

Song No. 144

No. 1: 2 Chronicles—Why Beneficial (si p. 84 pars. 34-6)

No. 2: 2 Chronicles 36:1-16

No. 3: The Bible Is Scientifically Sound
(rs p. 62 par. 2-p. 64 par. 3)

No. 4: "Responding to Objections About the Bible"
(rs p. 64 par. 4-p. 68 par. 1)

Apr. 23 Bible reading: Ezra 1-6

Song No. 90

No. 1: Introduction to Ezra and Why Beneficial
(si p. 85 pars. 1-7; p. 87 pars. 14-18)

No. 2: Ezra 4:1-16

No. 3: Why Do Christians Not Celebrate Birthdays?
(rs pp. 68-70 par. 2)

No. 4: Why Do Christians Abstain From Blood?
(rs pp. 70-2 par. 3)

Apr. 30 Written Review. Bible reading: Ezra 7-10

Song No. 203

May 7 Bible reading: Nehemiah 1-5

Song No. 56

No. 1: Introduction to Nehemiah (*si* p. 88 pars. 1-5)

No. 2: Nehemiah 1:1-11

No. 3: Why Do Christians Not Accept Blood Transfusions?
(*rs* p. 72 par. 4-p. 73 par. 4)

No. 4: *Responding to Assertions About Blood Transfusions
(*rs* p. 74 par. 1-p. 76 par. 2)

May 14 Bible reading: Nehemiah 6-9

Song No. 155

No. 1: The Christian Congregation Is a Source of Strengthening
Aid (*w99* 5/15 pp. 25-8)

No. 2: Nehemiah 9:1-15

No. 3: What Does It Mean to Be Born Again? (*rs* pp. 76-7 par. 7)

No. 4: Salvation Not Dependent Upon Being "Born Again"
(*rs* p. 77 par. 8-p. 79 par. 1)

May 21 Bible reading: Nehemiah 10-13

Song No. 46

No. 1: Nehemiah—Why Beneficial (*si* pp. 90-1 pars. 16-19)

No. 2: Nehemiah 12:27-43

No. 3: *Responding to Viewpoints About Being Born Again
(*rs* p. 79 par. 3-p. 80 par. 2)

No. 4: Confessing to Priests—Why Not Scriptural?
(*rs* pp. 80-1 par. 9)

May 28 Bible reading: Esther 1-4

Song No. 38

No. 1: Introduction to Esther (*si* pp. 91-2 pars. 1-6)

No. 2: Esther 1:1-15

No. 3: Confessing Sins Against God and Man
(*rs* p. 83 pars. 2-8)

No. 4: Why Should Serious Sins Be Confessed to Elders?
(*rs* p. 83 par. 9-p. 84 par. 4)

June 4 Bible reading: Esther 5-10

Song No. 37

No. 1: Esther—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 94 pars. 16-18)

No. 2: Esther 5:1-14

No. 3: Why Is It Reasonable to Believe in Creation?
(*rs* pp. 84-6 par. 2)

No. 4: Understanding the Bible's Account of Creation
(*rs* p. 86 par. 3-p. 88 par. 4)

June 11 Bible reading: Job 1-7

Song No. 84

No. 1: Introduction to Job (*si* pp. 95-6 pars. 1-6)

No. 2: Job 1:6-22

No. 3: Why Is Veneration of the Cross Unscriptural?
(*rs* p. 92 par. 1-p. 93 par. 1)

No. 4: Why Do Humans Die? (*rs* pp. 98-9 par. 6)

June 18 Bible reading: Job 8-14

Song No. 192

No. 1: Saul—A Chosen Vessel to the Lord (*w99* 5/15 pp. 29-31)

No. 2: Job 8:1-22

No. 3: Where Are the Dead, and What Is Their Condition?
(*rs* p. 99 par. 7-p. 101 par. 4)

No. 4: Why Do Jehovah's Witnesses Not Share in Traditional
Mourning Customs? (*rs* p. 102 par. 1-p. 103 par. 2)

June 25 Bible reading: Job 15-21

Song No. 81

No. 1: God Is Not Slow Regarding His Promise (*w99* 6/1 pp. 4-7)

No. 2: Job 17:1-16

No. 3: *Responding to Incorrect Viewpoints About Death
(*rs* p. 103 par. 3-p. 104 par. 1)

No. 4: Dreams: Inspired and Otherwise (*rs* pp. 104-6 par. 3)

July 2 Bible reading: Job 22-29

Song No. 173

No. 1: Should You Broaden Your Viewpoint? (*w99* 6/15 pp. 10-13)

No. 2: Job 27:1-23

No. 3: Drugs—When Forbidden to Christians (*rs* pp. 106-8
par. 1)

No. 4: Why Christians Avoid Marijuana
(*rs* p. 108 par. 2-p. 109 par. 2)

July 9 Bible reading: Job 30-35

Song No. 108

No. 1: Why You Can Trust Bible Prophecy (*w99* 7/15 pp. 4-8)

No. 2: Job 31:1-22

No. 3: Why Do Christians Avoid Tobacco?
(*rs* p. 109 par. 3-p. 111 par. 3)

No. 4: Overcoming Bad Habits—How? (*rs* p. 111 par. 4-p. 112
par. 3)

July 16 Bible reading: Job 36-42

Song No. 160

No. 1: Job—Why Beneficial (*si* p. 100 pars. 39-43)

No. 2: Job 36:1-22

No. 3: Nations Will Not Frustrate God's Purpose Regarding
Earth (*rs* pp. 112-13 par. 5)

No. 4: Will Jehovah Destroy the Earth by Fire?
(*rs* p. 113 par. 6-p. 115 par. 1)

July 23 Bible reading: Psalms 1-10

Song No. 5

No. 1: Introduction to Psalms—Part 1 (*si* p. 101 pars. 1-5)

No. 2: Psalm 3:1-4:8

No. 3: Members of New Jerusalem Not to Return to Earth After
Wicked Are Destroyed (*rs* p. 115 par. 2-p. 116 par. 1)

No. 4: Has God's Original Purpose for Earth Changed?
(*rs* p. 116 par. 2-p. 117 par. 2)

July 30 Bible reading: Psalms 11-18

Song No. 48

No. 1: Introduction to Psalms—Part 2 (*si* p. 102 pars. 6-11)

No. 2: Psalm 11:1-13:6

No. 3: How Can We Encourage Sick Ones? (*rs* pp. 117-18 par. 1)

No. 4: How We Can Encourage Bereaved Ones
(*rs* p. 118 pars. 2-6)

Aug. 6 Bible reading: Psalms 19-26

Song No. 117

No. 1: Wholesome Communication—A Key to a Good Marriage
(*w99* 7/15 pp. 21-3)

No. 2: Psalm 20:1-21:13

No. 3: Encouragement for Those Persecuted for Doing God's
Will (*rs* p. 118 par. 7-p. 119 par. 4)

No. 4: How Can You Encourage Those Disheartened by
Injustices? (*rs* p. 119 par. 5-p. 120 par. 2)

Aug. 13 Bible reading: Psalms 27-34

Song No. 130

No. 1: Philip—A Zealous Evangelizer (*w99* 7/15 pp. 24-5)

No. 2: Psalm 28:1-29:11

No. 3: What Encouragement for Those Pressed by Economic
Problems? (*rs* p. 120 pars. 3-7)

No. 4: Encouragement for Those Disheartened by
Shortcomings (*rs* p. 120 par. 8-p. 121 par. 3)

Aug. 20 Bible reading: Psalms 35-39

Song No. 18

No. 1: Peer Pressure—Can It Be to Your Advantage?
(*w99* 8/1 pp. 22-5)

No. 2: Psalm 38:1-22

No. 3: Evolution—A Scientific Dilemma (*rs* pp. 121-3 par. 1)

No. 4: Evolution, the Fossil Record, and Reasonableness
(*rs* p. 123 par. 2-p. 126 par. 2)

Aug. 27 Written Review. Bible reading: Psalms 40-47

Song No. 91

Sept. 3 Bible reading: Psalms 48-55

Song No. 36

No. 1: Keep Anger From Stumbling You (*w99* 8/15 pp. 8-9)**No. 2:** Psalm 49:1-20**No. 3:** *Responding to Assertions by Evolutionists
(*rs* p. 126 par. 3-p. 128 par. 3)**No. 4:** Why Do Many People Lack Faith? (*rs* pp. 129-30 par. 2)**Sept. 10 Bible reading: Psalms 56-65**

Song No. 44

No. 1: Does the Devil Make Us Sick? (*w99* 9/1 pp. 4-7)**No. 2:** Psalm 59:1-17**No. 3:** How Can a Person Acquire Faith?
(*rs* p. 130 par. 3-p. 131 par. 3)**No. 4:** Faith in Prospect of Righteous New System Proved by
Works (*rs* p. 131 par. 5-p. 132 par. 2)**Sept. 17 Bible reading: Psalms 66-71**

Song No. 210

No. 1: Choose "the Good Portion" (*w99* 9/1 pp. 30-1)**No. 2:** Psalm 69:1-19**No. 3:** How Can False Prophets Be Identified?
(*rs* pp. 132-4 par. 2)**No. 4:** True Prophets Did Not Always Understand How and
When Things Foretold Would Happen
(*rs* p. 134 pars. 3-8)**Sept. 24 Bible reading: Psalms 72-77**

Song No. 217

No. 1: Why Keep Your Promises? (*w99* 9/15 pp. 8-11)**No. 2:** Psalm 73:1-24**No. 3:** A True Prophet's Pronouncements Promote True
Worship (*rs* p. 135 pars. 1-2)**No. 4:** True Prophets Identified by Fruits Produced
(*rs* p. 135 par. 3-p. 137 par. 1)**Oct. 1 Bible reading: Psalms 78-81**

Song No. 88

No. 1: Gain Wisdom, and Accept Discipline (*w99* 9/15 pp. 12-15)**No. 2:** Psalm 78:1-22**No. 3:** Responding to Those Who Call Us False Prophets
(*rs* p. 137 pars. 2-4)**No. 4:** God Does Not Predestinate When Each Person Will Die
(*rs* p. 138 pars. 1-3)**Oct. 8 Bible reading: Psalms 82-89**

Song No. 221

No. 1: Timothy—"A Genuine Child in the Faith"
(*w99* 9/15 pp. 29-31)**No. 2:** Psalm 88:1-18**No. 3:** Not Everything That Happens Is God's Will
(*rs* p. 139 par. 1-p. 140 par. 2)**No. 4:** God Does Not Foreknow and Foreordain Everything
(*rs* p. 140 pars. 3-5)**Oct. 15 Bible reading: Psalms 90-98**

Song No. 134

No. 1: Fortified to Say No to Wrongdoing (*w99* 10/1 pp. 28-31)**No. 2:** Psalm 90:1-17**No. 3:** God's Ability to Foreknow and Foreordain Events
(*rs* p. 141 pars. 1-4)**No. 4:** Why God Did Not Exercise His Foreknowledge Regarding
Adam (*rs* p. 142 pars. 1-3)**Oct. 22 Bible reading: Psalms 99-105**

Song No. 89

No. 1: Learning the Excelling Way of Love (*w99* 10/15 pp. 8-11)**No. 2:** Psalm 103:1-22**No. 3:** God Did Not Predestinate Jacob, Esau, or Judas
(*rs* p. 142 par. 4-p. 143 par. 2)**No. 4:** In What Way Was the Christian Congregation
Predestinated? (*rs* p. 143 par. 3-p. 144 par. 1)**Oct. 29 Bible reading: Psalms 106-109**

Song No. 214

No. 1: "Jehovah Himself Gives Wisdom" (*w99* 11/15 pp. 24-7)**No. 2:** Psalm 107:1-19**No. 3:** What Is the Scriptural View of Astrology?
(*rs* p. 144 par. 2-p. 145 par. 2)**No. 4:** What Are Some Sound Reasons for Believing in God?
(*rs* pp. 145-6 par. 5)**Nov. 5 Bible reading: Psalms 110-118**

Song No. 14

No. 1: The Apocalypse—To Be Feared or Hoped For?
(*w99* 12/1 pp. 5-8)**No. 2:** Psalm 112:1-113:9**No. 3:** Wickedness and Suffering Do Not Disprove God's
Existence (*rs* p. 146 par. 6-p. 147 par. 1)**No. 4:** God Is a Real Person Capable of Emotion
(*rs* p. 147 par. 2-p. 148 par. 3)**Nov. 12 Bible reading: Psalm 119**

Song No. 35

No. 1: Do Not Let Your Strength Become Your Weakness
(*w99* 12/1 pp. 26-9)**No. 2:** Psalm 119:1-24**No. 3:** God Had No Beginning (*rs* p. 148 pars. 4-7)**No. 4:** Use of God's Name Essential for Salvation
(*rs* p. 149 pars. 1-4)**Nov. 19 Bible reading: Psalms 120-137**

Song No. 175

No. 1: Psalms—Why Beneficial—Part 1 (*si* pp. 104-5 pars. 23-7)**No. 2:** Psalm 120:1-122:9**No. 3:** Are All Religions Good? (*rs* p. 149 pars. 5-8)**No. 4:** What Kind of "God" Is Jesus? (*rs* p. 150 pars. 1-2)*** Nov. 26 Bible reading: Psalms 138-150**

Song No. 135

No. 1: Psalms—Why Beneficial—Part 2 (*si* pp. 105-6 pars. 28-32)**No. 2:** Psalm 139:1-24**No. 3:** *Responding to Objections About Belief in God
(*rs* p. 150 par. 3-p. 151 par. 3)**No. 4:** Why Men Have Been Unable to Establish a Just
Government (*rs* pp. 152-3 par. 1)**Dec. 3 Bible reading: Proverbs 1-7**

Song No. 132

No. 1: Introduction to Proverbs—Part 1 (*si* pp. 106-7 pars. 1-5)**No. 2:** Proverbs 4:1-27**No. 3:** Why Human Efforts to Bring Relief Cannot Succeed
(*rs* p. 153 par. 2-p. 154 par. 2)**No. 4:** God's Kingdom Only Answer to Mankind's Real Needs
(*rs* p. 154 par. 3-p. 155 par. 1)**Dec. 10 Bible reading: Proverbs 8-13**

Song No. 51

No. 1: Introduction to Proverbs—Part 2 (*si* pp. 107-8 pars. 6-11)**No. 2:** Proverbs 13:1-25**No. 3:** Bible Prophecies Have Proved Completely Reliable
(*rs* p. 155 pars. 2-5)**No. 4:** Miraculous Healings Today Not Done by God's Spirit
(*rs* pp. 156-7 par. 3)**Dec. 17 Bible reading: Proverbs 14-19**

Song No. 111

No. 1: Proverbs—Why Beneficial—Part 1
(*si* pp. 109-10 pars. 19-28)**No. 2:** Proverbs 16:1-25**No. 3:** Difference Between Cures of Jesus and His Apostles and
Those of Today (*rs* p. 157 par. 4-p. 158 par. 2)**No. 4:** How True Christians Are Identified Today
(*rs* p. 158 par. 3-p. 159 par. 1)**Dec. 24 Bible reading: Proverbs 20-25**

Song No. 9

No. 1: Proverbs—Why Beneficial—Part 2
(*si* pp. 110-11 pars. 29-38)**No. 2:** Proverbs 20:1-30**No. 3:** Why Gifts of Healing Were Given in the First Century
(*rs* p. 159 par. 2-p. 160 par. 2)**No. 4:** What Hope Is There for Real Healing for All Mankind?
(*rs* p. 160 pars. 3-5)**Dec. 31 Written Review. Bible reading: Proverbs 26-31**

Song No. 180

* As time permits, consider responses to assertions, objections,
and so forth that will best meet needs in territory.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **October:** The *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Where interest is found on return visits, subscriptions may be offered. Starting on October 16, *Kingdom News* No. 36 will be distributed. **November:** Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36 will continue. Congregations that complete their territory by reaching householders in each dwelling with a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36 may offer the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. If people already have these, either the *Live Forever* book or the *Creation* book may be used. **December:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* with the *New World Translation*. **January:** Any 192-page book published prior to 1986 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that have on hand *Mankind's Search for God* may also offer it.

■ The insert in this issue of *Our Kingdom Ministry* is the "Theocratic Ministry School Schedule for 2001" and should be kept for reference throughout 2001.

■ If the meeting times for your congregation will change January 1, the congregation secretary should notify the Society of the changes by submitting the Congregation Meeting Information and Handbill Request form (S-5). If needed, a new supply of handbills can be ordered on the same form. Handbills should be requested at least eight weeks before you wish to receive them.

■ Starting the week of February 5, 2001, the book *Is There a Creator Who Cares About You?* will be considered at the Congregation Book Study. Congregations needing a supply of these books should request them on their next monthly literature request. Beginning in November 2000, question booklets for use with the *Creator* book will automatically be included with literature shipments. Congregations will not need to request these booklets. Booklets will be shipped in lots

of 25, according to the size of each congregation. If additional booklets are needed, these should be requested on a Literature Request Form (S-14). Booklets will be available in the following languages: Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Czech, Dutch, East Armenian, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese.

■ Congregations should begin requesting *Examining the Scriptures Daily—2001* with their October literature request. The booklets will be available in Albanian, Amharic, Arabic, Armenian, Bulgarian, Cambodian, Cebuano, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, East Armenian, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Gujarati, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Iloko, Indonesian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Macedonian, Malayalam, Norwegian, Papiamentu, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Slovak, Solomon Islands Pidgin, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Tagalog, Thai, Tigrinya, Turkish, Ukrainian, Urdu, and Vietnamese. Until these booklets are available and shipments are made, they will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Examining the Scriptures* booklets are special-request items.

■ New Publications Available:
Isaiah's Prophecy—Light for All Mankind I —English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese
Jehovah—Who Is He? (Tract No. 23) —Dutch, Hindi
Jehovah's Witnesses—Who Are They? What Do They Believe? —English, French, Greek, Italian, Spanish
Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life —Haitian Creole, Kwangali, Nepali

Watch Tower Publications Index 1998 —German, Italian, Portuguese

Will Suffering Ever End? (Tract No. 75) —Cambodian

You Can Be God's Friend! —Armenian, Chinese, English, French, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Tagalog, Vietnamese

■ New Audiocassettes Available:
Kingdom Melodies Volume 9 (single cassette)

Numbers (set of three cassettes) —Dutch

The Good News According to Matthew (set of three cassettes) —Chinese (Mandarin)

The Good News According to Mark (set of two cassettes) —Chinese (Mandarin), Dutch

The Secret of Family Happiness (five cassettes in an album) —Korean

Warning Examples for Our Day (Drama, single cassette) —English

What Does God Require of Us? (single cassette) —Cambodian, Ukrainian

■ New Compact Discs Available:
Kingdom Melodies Volume 9

■ New Videocassettes Available:
Our Whole Association of Brothers —English

Tools That Educate (Continued)

■ In what ways does the Bethel family set an excellent example for all of Jehovah's Witnesses?

■ What impresses you about the work being done at Bethel to reach as many people as possible with the good news?

■ How is the worldwide work financed?

■ What activity can we zealously support, and with what spirit?—John 4:35; Acts 1:8.

■ How do you feel about the organization behind our name?

■ How can you use this video in the ministry?

In December we will review the video *(The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy.)*

“The New Millennium —What Does the Future Hold for You?”

¹ That question has been on the minds of people around the earth. Although mankind has accomplished much over the centuries, people are disillusioned because the basic problems that have plagued humans for millenniums still exist. (Job 14:1; Ps. 90:10) Where can mankind find relief?

² During the months of October and November, we will have a special opportunity to provide our neighbors with the answer to that question. How? Through the distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36. It is entitled “The New Millennium—What Does the Future Hold for You?” During the first half of October, we will offer the *Watchtower* and *Awake!* magazines. Then from Monday, October 16, through Friday, November 17, we will engage in an intensive distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36. During this campaign, we will concentrate on placing *Kingdom News* No. 36 on weekdays. On weekends, we will present it along with the current magazines.

³ **Will You Have a Full Share?** Elders, ministerial servants, and pioneers will want to take the lead in this campaign, since they are at the forefront of the work. Many publishers have adjusted their circumstances to auxiliary pioneer during one or both months of the distribution. Others plan to spend more time than usual in the ministry.

⁴ Congregation Book Study conductors can be instrumental in encouraging every member of their group to have a full share in the distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36. There

may be some publishers who have become inactive in the preaching work. Elders should visit these to see what can be done to help them. Perhaps arrangements can be made for an experienced publisher to accompany each inactive person in the field during these months. The simple presentation of *Kingdom News* No. 36 could be just what is needed to reactivate these publishers.

⁵ This will also be a good opportunity for Bible students who are well along in the *Knowledge* book and who qualify as unbaptized publishers to begin sharing in the ministry. Even young ones can have a fine share in this exciting work.

⁶ *A simple presentation is all that is needed. You might say:*

■ “I have volunteered my time to help distribute this very important message to every family in [name of city or county]. This is your copy. Please read it.” It may be advantageous not to carry a witnessing case when distributing *Kingdom News* No. 36.

⁷ **Well-Planned Meetings for Field Service:** The elders must see to it that witnessing arrangements are both convenient and practical. The service overseer especially should ensure that plenty of house-to-house and business territory is on hand so that everyone can share fully in the work. Wherever possible, meetings for service should be organized for each weekday, for the weekends, and for the evenings. Arrangements can be made to meet in the late afternoons for the benefit of school students, shift workers, and others.

⁸ **What to Do About Not-at-Homes:** Our goal is to speak to as many householders as possible. If no one is at home when you call, take note of the address and call at a different time of day. If by the last week of the campaign you have not succeeded in contacting these householders, you may leave them a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36 in a place out of sight of passersby. The local elders may instruct the congregation to leave a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36 at not-at-homes on the first call when working rural areas and areas where there is more territory than can be covered during the campaign.

⁹ **Let's Get Busy!** Congregations should endeavor to cover their territory before the campaign ends on November 17. If your territory is quite large, some publishers may work alone where this is practical and safe. This arrangement will make it easier to reach as many deserving ones as possible. Be sure to keep a good record of all the interest found.

¹⁰ The elders should anticipate how many extra magazines the congregation will need and order accordingly. There is no need to order *Kingdom News* No. 36, since a consignment is being sent to each congregation. Special, regular, and auxiliary pioneers will receive 250 copies each to distribute, while congregation publishers will be allotted 50 copies each. So are you ready and eager to get busy in this special activity? How privileged we are to let all our neighbors know what God has promised for the near future!

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

November 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 11/00 Vol. 43, No. 11

Keep on Preaching!

¹ It is God's will that "all sorts of men should be saved and come to an accurate knowledge of truth." (1 Tim. 2:4) For this reason, he has given us the assignment to preach the good news. (Matt. 24:14) If we appreciate why we should keep on preaching, any discouragement or potential distraction that comes our way will not deter us.

² **Why Persist?** There are many distractions in the world that cause people to forget or to take lightly what we tell them. So we must keep reminding them of God's message of salvation. (Matt. 24:38, 39) Additionally, circumstances in the lives of people are always changing. Even world conditions can change drastically overnight.

Scene of World Changing
(1 Cor. 7:31) Tomorrow, next week, or next month, the people to whom we preach may face new problems or concerns that cause them to give serious consideration to the good news that we bring them. Are you not thankful that the Witness who brought you the truth was persistent?

³ **To Imitate God's Mercy:** Jehovah has patiently allowed time to pass before executing judgment on the wicked. Through us he has continued to appeal to righthearted ones to turn to him and get saved. (2 Pet. 3:9) We would be blood-guilty if we did not keep God's merciful message before the people and warn them about the coming execution of God's

judgment on all who do not turn away from their bad ways. (Ezek. 33:1-11) Even though our preaching is not always well received, we must never slack off from making every effort to help sincere ones appreciate God's great mercy.—Acts 20:26, 27; Rom. 12:11. *be a glow*

⁴ **To Demonstrate Our Love:** It is Jehovah God, through Jesus Christ, who commanded that the good news be preached in all the earth. (Matt. 28:19, 20) Even when people refuse to listen, we have an opportunity to show our love and devotion to God by persisting in doing what is right.—1 John 5:3. *Follow me*

⁵ May we be determined to keep on preaching! Let us do so zealously while it is yet Jehovah's "day of salvation."—2 Cor. 6:2.

"A Word Spoken at the Right Time"

¹ Is sharing the message of life with others a challenge for you? Do you feel that you must say something profound to impress your listeners? When Jesus sent forth his disciples, he told them: "As you go, preach, saying, 'The kingdom of the heavens has drawn near.'" (Matt. 10:7) The message was uncomplicated and easy to share. It is no different today.

² Often just a few words are needed to start a conversation. When Philip met the Ethiopian eunuch, he asked him: "Do you actually know what you are reading?" (Acts 8:30) What a rewarding discussion resulted from "a word spoken at the right time!"—Prov. 25:11.

³ You can use a similar approach in your ministry. How? By being observant and choosing words that are appropriate to the circumstances. Ask a question, and listen to the response.

⁴ **Some Basic Questions:** To initiate a conversation, you might try any of these questions:

■ "Do you use the Lord's Prayer (or, Our Father) in your worship?" (Matt. 6:9, 10) Recite a portion, and then state: "Some people ask, 'What is God's name that Jesus said is to be sanctified (or, hallowed)?' Others ask, 'What is the Kingdom for which Jesus said we should pray?' Have you found satisfying answers to these questions?"

■ "Have you ever wondered: 'What is the meaning of life?'" Show that it relates to a knowledge of God.—Eccl. 12:13; John 17:3.

■ "Do you think that death will ever be done away with?" Use Isaiah 25:8 and Revelation 21:4 to give a trustworthy answer.

■ "Is there a simple solution to the turmoil in the world?" Show that God teaches "love your neighbor."—Matt. 22:39.

■ "Will a cosmic disaster destroy our earth someday?" Share the Bible promise that the earth will remain forever.—Ps. 104:5.

⁵ Present the good news in a simple, direct manner and with a kind approach. Jehovah will bless your efforts to share even "a word" of the truth with others.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting November 13

Song 4

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. Outline special field service arrangements for November 23.

13 min: Question Box. Talk by an elder.

22 min: "Cultivating Interest Stimulated by *Kingdom News* No. 36." Question-and-answer discussion of paragraphs 1-5. Outline local arrangements for covering any territory not yet worked. Review the presentations in paragraphs 7 and 8 for making return visits, and have each one demonstrated. Emphasize the importance of following up all interest and endeavoring to start Bible studies. Conclude by discussing paragraph 9 and the cited scriptures.

Song 63 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 20

Song 111

10 min: Local announcements. Accounts report.

15 min: Experiences Distributing *Kingdom News* No. 36. Report success in covering the territory. Did any in the congregation share in service for the first time? Relate favorable comments made by householders. Were some publishers able to start Bible studies? If so, have them explain or reenact how they did it. Remind all to cultivate the interest found.

20 min: "Keep On Preaching!" Talk and interview. Some have been associated with Jehovah's organization and have persisted in the preaching work all their lives. With a positive attitude, they have found joy in doing so. (See *Knowledge* book, page 179, paragraph 20, and the May 1, 1992, *Watchtower*, pages 21-2, paragraphs 14-15.) Invite a publisher who has been active for many years to relate the reasons why he has persisted in the preaching work.

Song 141 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting November 27

Song 153

10 min: Local announcements. Remind publishers to turn in field service reports for November. The literature offer for December is the *Knowledge* book with the *New World Translation*. Explain how Jehovah's Witnesses have played a major role in producing the Bible in many languages.—See the October 15, 1997, *Watchtower*, pages 11-12.

20 min: Make Good Use of the *Reasoning* Book. Question-and-answer discussion of pages 7-8. Show how this book is designed to help us prepare for a more effective share in the ministry. Explain how the book can be used when doing telephone witnessing. Demonstrate how to find helpful information to answer a question. Urge all to become familiar with this book, keep it in their witnessing case, and make regular use of it.

15 min: How Can I Control My TV Viewing Habits? An elder talks to a young brother who spends several hours a day watching TV. At first, the brother insists that there is no harm in it. He says that it is simply a form of relaxation and that he is not adversely affected. Elder reviews main points in chapter 36 of the *Young People Ask* book. He explains that excessive TV viewing consumes valuable time that might otherwise be spent doing personal study, going in the ministry, or helping with congregation needs. The young brother expresses appreciation for the counsel and says that for his spiritual benefit, he will change his TV-viewing habits.

Song 175 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 4

Song 189

10 min: Local announcements. "What Do You Say to an Answering Machine?"

15 min: Local needs.

20 min: "A Word Spoken at the Right Time." Audience discussion and demonstrations. Many feel inadequate when trying to start con-

versations, wrongly assuming that they need some special skill to get results. Explain how all of us, including new and younger publishers, can initiate discussions with reasonable effort. Review the suggested presentations, highlighting their simplicity, and have two or three publishers demonstrate them. Refer to the March 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry*, page 8, for additional presentations that can be used. Urge all to be positive so that they will find more joy in their ministry. Song 218 and concluding prayer.

What Do You Say to an Answering Machine?

The telephone is an effective means of witnessing to people who cannot be found at home or who live in territories that are inaccessible. However, more and more people do not answer the phone—an answering machine does it for them. When this happens, what can you do? Do not hang up. Instead, have a well-prepared response written out that you can read over the phone. Practice doing so in a pleasant, conversational voice. What can you say?

You could extend a warm invitation to the householder to attend the next Public Meeting at the Kingdom Hall. You might say: "I am sorry that I did not find you at home. If you would like to hear a Bible-based discussion of [title of public talk], please come to the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses. The public is invited. No collections are ever taken." Then state clearly the day and time of the meeting, and give the street address or describe the location of the Kingdom Hall.

Be alert to any new ones who may attend the meetings, introduce yourself to them, and make them feel welcome. Do not forget to offer a free home Bible study!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **November**: Distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36 will continue. Congregations that complete their territory by reaching householders in each dwelling with a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36 may offer the *Require* brochure or the *Knowledge* book. If people already have these, either the *Live Forever* book or the *Creation* book may be used.

■ **December**: *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life* with the *New World Translation*. **January**: Any 192-page book published in or prior to 1986 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that have on hand *Mankind's Search for God* may also offer it. **February**: *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?*, *Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, or any older 192-page book that the congregation has in stock.

■ After the *Kingdom News* campaign is completed, congregations that still have a supply of *Kingdom News* No. 36 may encourage publishers to offer these in the same manner that they of-

fer tracts—both from door to door and elsewhere. If advisable, publishers may leave one at each not-at-home, making sure that it cannot be seen by passersby. Efforts should be made to distribute all remaining copies of this important message.

■ The presiding overseer or someone designated by him should audit the congregation's accounts on December 1 or as soon as possible thereafter. When this has been done, make an announcement to the congregation after the next accounts report is read.

■ Congregations should begin requesting the *2001 Yearbook of Jehovah's Witnesses* with their November literature request. The *Yearbook* will be available in Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Croatian, Czech, Danish, Dutch, English, Finnish, French, German, Greek, Hungarian, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Serbian, Slovak, Spanish, and Swedish. Until the *Yearbook* is available and shipments are made, it will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. *Yearbooks* are special-request items.

■ New Publications Available:

Bible —East Armenian, Urdu
Is There a Creator Who Cares About You? —Slovak

Jesus Christ—Who Is He? (Tract No. 24)
—Lithuanian, Macedonian, Swahili
Pay Attention to Daniel's Prophecy!

—Igbo, Macedonian
The Greatest Man Who Ever Lived

—Amharic, Armenian, Tongan
The Secret of Family Happiness

—Laotian, Myanmar, Serbian,
Shona

The Time for True Submission to God
(for Muslims) —Macedonian, Wolof

AUGUST SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bl.St.
Sp'l Pios.	94	121.8	99.2	54.0 4.5
Pios.	90,927	55.5	36.5	17.8 1.5
Aux. Pios.	18,215	49.6	36.7	12.9 0.9
Pubs.	877,574	9.0	8.0	3.3 0.3
TOTAL	986,810			Baptized: 1,380

QUESTION BOX

■ How can a person who has been inactive for a long time be helped to qualify again as a publisher of the good news?

When an inactive person gives evidence that he has a heartfelt desire to serve Jehovah, this is a cause for rejoicing. (Luke 15:4-6) Likely, the individual allowed opposition or pressures of life to crowd out his personal study, meeting attendance, and participation in the field ministry. How can personal assistance best be given so that he will make spiritual progress?

All of us should take the initiative to reassure this one of our genuine Christian love for him. The elders will be quick to assess his specific spiritual needs. (Jas. 5:14, 15) If the inactivity lasted for a short time, a helping hand from an ex-

perienced publisher might be all that is needed to reactivate the individual in the field service. However, if the inactive one has not associated with the congregation for a long time, more help will probably be necessary. To build up faith and appreciation, a personal Bible study in an appropriate publication may be advisable. In that case, the service overseer will arrange for a qualified publisher to conduct the study. (Heb. 5:12-14; see the November 1998 *Our Kingdom Ministry* Question Box.) If you know of someone who needs such help, talk to the service overseer in your congregation.

Before inviting a longtime inactive one to share again in the ministry, it is advisable for two elders to meet with him to see if he qualifies as a Kingdom publisher. They will follow a procedure similar to that

used when meeting with new ones who are seeking to qualify as publishers of the good news. (See the November 15, 1988, *Watchtower*, page 17.) The inactive one should have an earnest desire to share the good news with others. He also needs to meet the basic requirements outlined on pages 98-9 in the *Our Ministry* book and to be consistent in attending congregation meetings.

Having a good spiritual routine will do much to help the returning one to strengthen and maintain his precious relationship with Jehovah and to keep walking on the road to everlasting life. (Matt. 7:14; Heb. 10:23-25) His putting forth "all earnest effort" and developing Christian qualities that endure will prevent him from ever again becoming "inactive or unfruitful" as a Christian disciple.—2 Pet. 1:5-8.

Cultivating Interest Stimulated by Kingdom News No. 36

¹ Have you completed distribution of your allotment of *Kingdom News* No. 36? It asks a timely question for all to contemplate: "The New Millennium—What Does the Future Hold for You?" As the year 2000 approached, expectations of what the new millennium would bring varied greatly. *Kingdom News* No. 36 considers some of those expectations and reminds us that world conditions do not provide a basis for optimism. The only millennium that will bring the peace and security that most people seek is the Millennial Reign of Christ Jesus. Our confidence in the reality of his Kingdom has impelled us to distribute *Kingdom News* No. 36 to everyone we can.

² **Responses to Kingdom News:** Previous distributions of *Kingdom News* have proved to be a fine stimulus to us in our work. Regarding *Kingdom News* No. 35, the Canada branch wrote: "This special campaign was supported enthusiastically by the publishers and pioneers in the field, and many encouraging experiences were enjoyed." No doubt you have shown like enthusiasm for the distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36.

³ The current *Kingdom News* campaign is scheduled to end on November 17, 2000. Has all of the territory assigned to your congregation been covered? If not, the elders may ask you to continue the campaign until the end of November.

⁴ What has been the reaction thus far to the distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36 in your locality? A few people will fill out the coupon and request a copy of the *Require* brochure and/or a home Bible study. However,

the majority of those who show initial interest in the subject of the millennium are not likely to take action until one of Jehovah's Witnesses calls back. All who have shown interest should be visited again. When would be a good time to do this? The follow-up should be as soon as possible.

⁵ Note these experiences that resulted from returning on placements of *Kingdom News* No. 35. A pioneer in Ireland left *Kingdom News* with the owner of a restaurant. The woman was impressed with the message and invited the sister back. The sister returned in two days, and a Bible study was started. In Denmark, a copy of *Kingdom News* was left at a house where no one was at home. That same day the woman who lived there sent the coupon to the branch office, which forwarded it to the local congregation. Before the week was over, two sisters called, a study was arranged, and the woman attended her first meeting at the Kingdom Hall! *Response here: 36*

⁶ **What to Say When You Return:** Making return visits on *Kingdom News* placements is relatively easy and is an enjoyable part of our ministry. When doing so, it would be advisable to carry with you a copy of *Kingdom News* No. 36, since the householder may not have his copy. You might try these suggestions.

⁷ After you have reminded the householder of who you are, you could say:

■ "I left a folder entitled 'The New Millennium—What Does the Future Hold for You?' Wasn't it encouraging to read that soon the Millennial Reign

of Christ Jesus will begin, bringing Paradise conditions to the earth? [Show illustrations of Paradise in *Kingdom News* No. 36.] On the back page, you are invited to request a copy of the brochure *What Does God Require of Us?*" Show the brochure, turn to lesson 5, read the first question and paragraphs 1 and 2, and ask the householder to comment. Read and discuss a scripture or two. If possible, consider another question and paragraph, then arrange to return and continue the discussion.

⁸ Since the follow-up offer for November will be the "Require" brochure or the "Knowledge" book, you might say:

■ "When I recently visited you, I left a copy of 'The New Millennium—What Does the Future Hold for You?' It contains an offer of a free home Bible study. I have returned to show you the study aid that we use. [Show the *Require* brochure, and turn to the back cover; or show the *Knowledge* book, and turn to pages 188-9.] The Millennium spoken of in the Bible will bring conditions such as you see in this illustration. To qualify for life in Paradise, we need to take in accurate knowledge of God. Please allow me to demonstrate briefly how we study the Bible."

⁹ The distribution of *Kingdom News* No. 36 has motivated us to intensify our share in the ministry, producing a grand witness. Likely this has stimulated the interest of many individuals in the territory. Our united effort to cultivate this interest will, with Jehovah's help, result in our joyfully locating more sheeplike ones.—Matt. 10: 11; Acts 13:48, 49, 52.

OUR KINGDOM MINISTRY

December 2000

For United States of America

km-E Us 12/00 Vol. 43, No. 12

Fear Jehovah All Day Long

¹ “The fear of Jehovah is the beginning of wisdom.” (Ps. 111:10) It stimulates us to do good works and helps us to turn away from what is bad. (Prov. 16:6) This fear is a profound reverence for our Creator, moving us to shun displeasing and disobeying him. It is something that we need to cultivate and display all day long.—Prov. 8:13.

² Every day, the spirit of Satan’s world exerts tremendous pressure on us to conform to its evil ways. (Eph. 6:11, 12) Our imperfect flesh is sinful and naturally tends toward what is bad. (Gal. 5:17) Hence, to obey Jehovah’s commandments, be happy, and gain life, we have to

fear him all day long.—Deut. 10:12, 13.

³ At Hebrews 10:24, 25, we are admonished to gather together so as to encourage one another “all the more so” during these times in which we live. Regular meeting attendance is vital if we are to survive these last days. Our fear of displeasing God moves us to attend meetings and value their purpose highly. Those who fear God view sharing in Christian meetings as a sacred privilege.

⁴ Obeying the command to preach the good news of the Kingdom is another way that we display our fear of God. (Matt. 28:19, 20; Acts 10:42) A

primary goal of our preaching work is to help others cultivate the fear of Jehovah and submit to his will. We accomplish this by making return visits, endeavoring to start home Bible studies, and then teaching others all the commandments of God. We thereby demonstrate our fear of Jehovah and our love of neighbor.—Matt. 22:37-39.

⁵ Those not fearing God fail to develop an appreciative attitude toward spiritual things, and they succumb to the world’s deadly air, or mental attitude. (Eph. 2:2) May our firm resolve be to “render God sacred service with godly fear and awe.” (Heb. 12:28) We will thus reap the blessings of those who fear Jehovah all day long.

Do You Preach With Boldness?

¹ Despite being arrested and threatened by opposers, Peter and John continued declaring the Kingdom message with boldness. (Acts 4:17, 21, 31) What does it mean for us today to preach with boldness?

² **Boldly Giving a Witness:** A synonym for “bold” is “intrepid,” which means having “resolute fearlessness, fortitude, and endurance.” For true Christians, preaching with boldness means being unafraid to speak up whenever there is an appropriate occasion to share the good news with others. (Acts 4:20; 1 Pet. 3:15) It means that we are not ashamed of the good news. (Ps. 119:46; Rom. 1:16; 2 Tim. 1:8) Thus, boldness is a quality needed to accomplish our commission to preach the

good news of the Kingdom in this time of the end. It moves us to share the good news with people wherever they may be found.—Acts 4:29; 1 Cor. 9:23.

³ **Boldness at School:** Does an inclination to be fearful or timid make it difficult to preach to your schoolmates? At times it is not easy; in fact, it can be a real challenge. However, Jehovah will strengthen you if you pray for boldness to preach to others. (Ps. 138:3) Boldness will help you to identify yourself as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses and to withstand ridicule. As a result, your preaching at school may save those who listen to you.—1 Tim. 4:16.

⁴ **Boldness at Work:** Are you known as one of Jehovah’s Witnesses at work? The only way

your workmates can be reached with the good news may be by your preaching to them. Your boldness will also help you to get time off for your Christian meetings and conventions.

⁵ **Bold When Under Trial:** Mustering up boldness is crucial when we face opposition. (1 Thess. 2:1, 2) It helps us to hold fast to our faith when we are subjected to threats, ridicule, or outright persecution. (Phil. 1:27, 28) It fortifies us to stand firm when under pressure to compromise our adherence to the standards of our God, Jehovah. It strengthens us to maintain our peaceableness when others provoke disputes.—Rom. 12:18.

⁶ Whatever difficulties we personally face, may we persevere in preaching the good news with boldness.—Eph. 6:18-20.

SERVICE MEETING SCHEDULE

Week Starting December 11

Song 50

10 min: Local announcements. Selected Announcements from *Our Kingdom Ministry*. If the congregation has copies of the *Greatest Man* or *Great Teacher* books in stock, show how they can be used to good advantage in the ministry during the holiday season. Encourage everyone to view the video *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy* in preparation for the discussion at the Service Meeting the week of December 25. Those who have the video can share it with others who do not have it, or perhaps they can watch it together.

15 min: "Fear Jehovah All Day Long."** Include the explanation of godly fear given on page 26 of the January 8, 1998, *Awake!* Emphasize the wholesome benefits of fearing Jehovah.

20 min: "Peer Pressure and Your Privilege to Preach." Talk and interviews. Invite individuals who have experienced peer pressure to relate how they were able to keep active in the preaching work in spite of it. Song 78 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 18

Song 94

15 min: Local announcements. Accounts report. Outline special field service arrangements for December 25 and January 1. Answer the question: Is there any objection to sharing in celebrations that may have unchristian roots as long as this is not done for religious reasons?—See *Reasoning* book, pages 178-80.

12 min: "The Theocratic Ministry School for 2001." Talk by the school overseer. Encourage all to keep up with their weekly Bible reading and to be diligent in fulfilling assignments in the school.

18 min: "Do You Preach With Boldness?"* Elicit comments on the scriptures in the article. Using the *Our Ministry* book, page 86, show

how we can acquire greater boldness and be more effective in field service.

Song 124 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting December 25

Song 126

10 min: Local announcements. Invite audience to relate any recent experiences they have had in their witnessing activity. Review literature offer for January.

10 min: Local needs.

25 min: "Learning From the Video *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy*." Audience discussion. Offer suggestions on how this video can be used to motivate others. (1999 *Yearbook*, pages 51-2) In February we will review the second video in this series, *The Bible—Mankind's Oldest Modern Book*.

Song 151 and concluding prayer.

Week Starting January 1

NOTE: Congregations are not to move their Service Meeting for the week of January 1 to an earlier night unless the circuit overseer is visiting. In every congregation the convention insert should be considered on the Service Meeting as scheduled. If there is a circuit assembly this week, book study conductors should announce the convention location and dates at their regularly scheduled book studies. A copy of the Recommended Lodging List should be made available so that those in attendance can copy the hotel telephone numbers for making their reservations.

Song 171

8 min: Local announcements. If your congregation will change meeting times for the new year, kindly urge everyone to maintain regular meeting attendance at the new times. Inform Bible students and other interested ones of any changes, and begin using handbills that show the new schedule. Comment on September field service report for the country and the local congregation. Remind publishers to

turn in field service reports for December.

17 min: How to Prepare for Return Visits. Father discusses with his family how they can be more productive in their ministry. He stresses Scriptural reasons for following up all interest found. Using guidelines provided in the July 1, 1999, *Watchtower*, page 22, paragraph 18, they prepare to make some return visits. All acknowledge that they have contacted people who should be visited again. Each one describes the response he got on an initial call, and the others suggest an idea and a scripture to use on the return visit. They find points in the *Require* brochure that might be used effectively. The parents have one of the children practice what he will say on his call. They plan a specific time to make return visits during the coming week.

20 min: "2001 'Teachers of God's Word' District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses." Secretary handles question-and-answer coverage of article in insert. First, read the December 15, 2000, convention assignment letter from the Society. Then use the cited scriptures to show why all of us need to follow the Society's direction closely. Stress the importance of arranging for time off from work as soon as possible in order to be free to attend all three days of the convention. Commend everyone for cooperating with the Society's arrangements.

Song 212 and concluding prayer.

* Limit introductory comments to less than a minute, and follow with a question-and-answer discussion.

SEPTEMBER SERVICE REPORT

Number of:	Av. Hrs.	Av. Mags.	Av. R.V.	Av. Bi.St.
Sp'l Pios.	145	120.9	112.8	52.5 4.6
Pios.	92,434	66.7	50.2	20.7 1.6
Aux. Pios.	22,370	50.2	41.1	13.0 0.8
Pubs.	822,127	9.3	8.5	3.4 0.3
TOTAL	937,076			Baptized: 1,560

2001 "Teachers of God's Word" District Convention of Jehovah's Witnesses

¹ The prophet Isaiah described Jehovah as the Grand Instructor, who in a fatherly way urges: "This is the way. Walk in it, you people." (Isa. 30:20, 21) But how do we hear Jehovah's words spoken for our benefit? Jehovah speaks to his people through the pages of the Bible as well as Bible-based publications, meetings, circuit events, and district conventions provided by "the faithful and discreet slave." (Matt. 24:45) We can be thankful to Jehovah that he continues to direct us in the way in which we should walk.

² Each year, the district convention provides us with the opportunity to gather with fellow believers and listen attentively to Jehovah's instructions. Last year, 1,428,139 persons attended the spiritually refreshing "Doers of God's Word" District Conventions. In 2001, three-day "Teachers of God's Word" District Conventions will be held throughout the country. We know that you are looking forward to making your arrangements to attend, so we are providing the following instructions to assist you.

³ **Making Your Hotel Reservation:** To prevent hotels from overcharging the brothers and sisters attending the convention, the Society gives direction regarding acceptable room rates to the local Rooming Department in each convention city. All hotels that cooperate with these room-rate policies are placed on the Recommended Lodging List, a copy of which is sent to each congregation. However, you will notice that hotels included on the list one year may not be included the following year. This usually happens for one of three reasons: (1) Hotel personnel have decided that they will not offer room rates that are acceptable to the Society. (2) The Rooming Department has chosen to list a different hotel for reasons of price or location. (3) The hotel has fallen below the Society's standards for cleanliness and/or safety.

⁴ The Society would like to continue holding

our conventions in convenient convention cities. Because the Society and the local Rooming Department have your long-term interests at heart, each year we ask that you make reservations only at hotels that are *currently* working with the Watchtower Convention. By the first week in January, your congregation will have received the Recommended Lodging List for your convention. When making your reservation, carefully follow the instructions in this insert in the box entitled "Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation." Because of fire and safety regulations, you should arrange for no more than four persons in each room. If a particular hotel permits more than four persons to a room, this will be clearly indicated on the Recommended Lodging List under the heading "Adults."

⁵ Be sure that you have called *all* the hotels on the Recommended Lodging List before informing your congregation secretary that there are no rooms available. Using the address or telephone number shown at the top of the list, he will contact the Rooming Department

and advise them of the situation. A revised list will be sent to your congregation. Rather than making a reservation at a hotel not on the list, wait for the new list. Once you have made a reservation, please do not switch your reservation to another hotel. Hotels are added because there are brothers and sisters who still need rooms, not to provide more choices for those who already have rooms reserved. Following this direction gives us the opportunity to demonstrate our love for our Christian brothers and to avoid the world's me-first attitude.—1 Cor. 10:24.

⁶ **Sending Deposits to Hotels, and Handling Hotel Problems:** To guarantee a room reservation, within ten days of making your reservation, a one-night deposit must be made for each room reserved. Without a deposit the hotel has the right to give your room to someone else. Any difficulties experienced before or after the convention may be reported by writing or calling

Program Times

Friday and Saturday

9:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday

9:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

the Rooming Department, using the address or telephone number shown at the top of the Recommended Lodging List. If a problem arises during the convention, you should go to the convention Rooming Department as soon as possible so that the brothers can assist you before you check out of the hotel.

⁷ **Caring for Those With Special Needs:** The elderly, the infirm, those in full-time service, or others may require assistance in attending the convention. Relatives, the elders, and others in the congregation who are aware of the unique circumstances of those with special needs can lovingly make the necessary arrangements. The responsibility of family and congregation should not be shifted to the convention organization. (1 Tim. 5:4) The Society's Special Needs Room Request form outlines the qualifications for submitting this form. The Congregation Service Committee should review each applicant's qualifications before forwarding this form to the Rooming Department. The congregation secretary should include his telephone number on the form so that the Rooming Department can contact him if there are any questions. The approved forms should be mailed to the convention address shown on the reverse side of the form.

⁸ **Attending Another Convention:** If you need a Recommended Lodging List or information for another convention, the congregation secretary can provide you with the address of the convention headquarters, which is found on the reverse side of the Special Needs Room Request form. Always enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your request. If there is more than one convention held in that city, be sure to indicate the dates of the convention you will attend.

⁹ **How Do Hotel Personnel Feel About Jehovah's Witnesses?** After commenting on the good behavior of Jehovah's people, the general manager of a hotel in the Midwest said: "When I see Jehovah's Witnesses checking in on Thursday, I 'check out' until Monday morning. I know that any problems will be minor. It is always a pleasure to have your people here." A hotel salesperson exclaimed: "Wonderful group! Everyone just kept saying, 'Thank you.'" Does it not make you proud to hear our brothers spoken of in this way? Imagine how happy Jehovah God is when he sees us acting in a way that brings praise to his name!

¹⁰ **Conclusion:** As the time draws near for you to attend your district convention, make it a

matter of prayer to Jehovah that you can be in attendance *at all sessions on all three days* and derive the most benefit from the program. Have you already requested time off from work for the three days of the convention you plan to attend? If you have not, do so as soon as possible. Last-minute requests for time off from work usually are not granted. The faithful and discreet slave has arranged this year's "Teachers of God's Word" District Convention to provide for our spiritual instruction and to build up our faith. So start making your plans now to be in attendance, following the psalmist's admonition: "In congregated throngs bless God"!—Ps. 68:26.

Steps in Making Your Hotel Reservation

1. Call hotels during regular business hours (in January if possible). Use the hotel telephone numbers provided on the Recommended Lodging List.
2. Inform the hotel that you are one of Jehovah's Witnesses attending the Watchtower convention.
3. Provide the dates you will stay in the hotel.
4. Be sure that you are receiving the room rate(s) shown on the Recommended Lodging List. Do not accept a higher rate.
5. If rooms are not available, call another hotel on the list.
6. Make your reservation, and ask for a confirmation number.
7. Make your deposit by credit card, check, or money order. Do NOT send cash. If deposit is made by

Credit card: Instruct the hotel to charge the deposit to your card immediately.

Check or money order: Write the confirmation number on the front, and mail *within ten days*.

Also Please Observe:

- Stay only in hotels on the Recommended Lodging List.
- Reserve room(s) only for yourself or for people with whom you have made specific arrangements.
- Keep your *first* reservation.

THEOCRATIC MINISTRY SCHOOL REVIEW

Closed-book review on material covered in Theocratic Ministry School assignments for the weeks of September 4 to December 18, 2000. Use a separate sheet of paper to write down answers to as many of the questions as you can in the time allotted.

[Note: During the written review, only the Bible may be used to answer any question. References that follow the questions are for your personal research. Page and paragraph numbers may not appear on all references to *The Watchtower*.]

Answer each of the following statements True or False:

1. David restrained Abishai from killing Shimei because David was guilty of the charges Shimei was making against him. (2 Sam. 16:5-13) [Weekly Bible reading; see w99 5/1 p. 32 par. 3.]
2. A clean, properly trained conscience not only leads to a warm, personal relationship with God but is essential to our salvation. (Heb. 10:22; 1 Pet. 1:15, 16) [w98 9/1 p. 4 par. 4]
3. The account of 1 Kings has little more than historical value for a Christian because only 2 of the 14 kings who ruled in Israel and Judah after Solomon's death succeeded in doing what was right in Jehovah's eyes. [si p. 64 par. 1]
4. Jesus' Thousand Year Reign can be compared to Solomon's peaceful and prosperous 40-year rule. (1 Ki. 4:24, 25, 29) [Weekly Bible reading; see w90 6/1 p. 6 par. 5.]
5. Abijah's decent burial is clear evidence that he was a faithful worshiper of Jehovah, the only one from the house of Jeroboam. (1 Ki. 14:10, 13) [Weekly Bible reading; see w95 4/1 p. 12 par. 11.]
6. Undergoing Christian baptism indicates that one has become a mature servant of God. [w98 10/1 p. 28 par. 2]
7. Jehovah empowered Elijah with superhuman boldness and immunized him against fear. (1 Ki. 18:17, 18, 21, 40, 46) [Weekly Bible reading; see w98 1/1 p. 31 par. 2.]
8. Solomon's temple is a noteworthy structure not merely because of its glory and material splendor but because of its foreshadowing Jehovah's far more glorious spiritual temple. [si p. 69 par. 26]
9. The blindness that was brought on the military force of the Syrians at the word of Elisha was evidently mental blindness since they could see Elisha but could not recognize who he was. (2 Ki. 6:18, 19) [Weekly Bible reading; see si pp. 70-1 par. 10.]
10. Putting on "the Testimony," mentioned at 2 Kings 11:12, was a symbolic gesture illustrating that the king's interpretation of God's Law was final and should be obeyed. [Weekly Bible reading; see w91 2/1 p. 31 par. 6.]

Answer the following questions:

11. In harmony with 1 John 2:15-17, what should godly parents urge their children to avoid when guiding them in choosing suitable secular work? [w98 7/15 p. 5 par. 2] *being materialistic*
12. What is meant at 2 Samuel 18:8, which says: "The forest did more in eating up the people than the sword did"? [Weekly Bible reading; see w87 3/15 p. 31 par. 2.]
13. Who today may be compared to Goliath's kinsmen, the Rephaim, and what do they endeavor to do? (2 Sam. 21:15-22) [Weekly Bible reading; see w89 1/1 p. 20 par. 8.]
14. What is a beneficial Bible principle that we learn from 2 Samuel 6:6, 7? [si p. 63 par. 30] *Don't let the law rest on your shoulders*
15. What important principle can be learned from the incident involving the man who was put to death for violating the Sabbath? (Num. 15:35) [w98 9/1 p. 20 par. 2]
16. By doing what can we imitate the queen of Sheba, who traveled a long distance to hear "the wisdom of Solomon"? (1 Ki. 10: 1-9) [Weekly Bible reading; see w99 7/1 p. 31 pars. 1-2.] *show appreciation for greater Solomon*

17. According to 1 Kings 17:3, 4, 7-9, 17-24, in what three ways did Elijah demonstrate faith in Jehovah? [Weekly Bible reading; see w92 4/1 p. 19 par. 5.]

18. Why was Naboth's refusal to turn over his vineyard to Ahab not simply a reflection of stubbornness on his part? (1 Ki. 21:2, 3) [Weekly Bible reading; see w97 8/1 p. 13 par. 18.] *family inheritance, not to be sold by Jch*

19. How have the words at 2 Kings 6:16 served to encourage Jehovah's servants today? [Weekly Bible reading; see w98 6/15 p. 18 par. 5.] *Jeh sees - to strengthen servants*

20. In what ways should true Christians today guard against simony? [w98 11/15 p. 28 par. 5] *Can't buy privilege through favors or gifts*

Provide the word(s) or phrase needed to complete each of the following statements:

21. A true Christian must not give in to ~~temptation~~ and participate in customs that displease Jeh. (Prov. 29:25; Matt. 10:28) [w98 7/15 p. 20 par. 5]

22. In witnessing before King Agrippa, Paul used ~~bold~~ *eloquence*, emphasizing points that he and Agrippa knew. (Acts 26:2, 3, 26, 27) [w98 9/1 p. 31 par. 3].

23. Because God is unvisual, some may feel he is impersonal, but frequent and intensive periods of study will enable a person to 'see the One who is invisible.' (Heb. 11:27) [w98 9/15 p. 21 pars. 3-4]

24. As seen in the case of Syrian general Nesemur, sometimes great benefits are gained from just a little humility. [Weekly Bible reading; see w99 2/1 p. 3 par. 6-p. 4 par. 1.]

25. As Jehonadab's heart was with King Jehu, the GC today wholeheartedly acknowledge and cooperate with the Greater Jehu, JC, represented on earth by Abundant. (2 Ki. 10:15, 16) [Weekly Bible reading; see w98 1/1 p. 13 pars. 5-6.]

Select the correct answer in each of the following statements:

26. It was (Satan; Jehovah; Job) who incited David to ~~sin~~ by 'taking a count of Israel.' (2 Sam. 24:1) [Weekly Bible reading; see w92 7/15 p. 5 par. 2.]

27. In harmony with 1 Kings 8:1 and Ecclesiastes 1:1, Solomon congregated people to (build the temple; pursue the enemies of Israel; worship Jehovah). [Weekly Bible reading; see si p. 112 par. 3.]

28. The 20-year period during which Solomon built the temple and his house in Jerusalem is comparable to a period of doctrinal and organizational readjustment that began in (1919; 1923; 1931) and that ended in (1938; 1942; 1950). (1 Ki. 9:10) [Weekly Bible reading; see w92 3/1 p. 20 box.]

29. The term "heavens" as used at 2 Kings 2:11 refers to the (spiritual dwelling place of God; physical universe; earth's atmosphere, where birds fly and winds blow). [Weekly Bible reading; see w97 9/15 p. 15 box.]

30. (Herod the Great; Caesar Augustus; Tiberius Caesar) was the one who ordered the census that resulted in Jesus' being born in Bethlehem rather than in Nazareth. [w98 12/15 p. 7 box]

Match the following scriptures to the statements listed below:

Ps. 15:4; 2 Sam. 12:28; 2 Sam. 15:18-22; 2 Ki. 3:11; Col. 3:13

31. Headship in Jehovah's theocratic arrangement should be respected. [si p. 63 par. 30]

32. Loyalty to Jehovah's organization and its representatives must be maintained. [si p. 63 par. 30]

33. Appreciation for Jehovah's mercy can motivate one to exercise restraint and cover over shortcomings. [w98 11/1 p. 6 par. 3]

34. It is a privilege to show hospitality and to minister humbly to Jehovah's faithful servants in special service. [Weekly Bible reading; see w97 11/1 p. 31 par. 1.]

35. A God-fearing person does his best to keep his word to pay his debts, even if unforeseen circumstances make it more difficult than anticipated. [w98 11/15 p. 27 par. 1]

ANNOUNCEMENTS

■ Literature offer for **December:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life with the New World Translation*. **January:** Any 192-page book published in or prior to 1986 that the congregation may have in stock. Congregations that have on hand *Mankind's Search for God* may also offer it. **February:** *Life—How Did It Get Here? By Evolution or by Creation?, Revelation—Its Grand Climax At Hand!*, or any 192-page book that the congregation has in stock. **March:** *Knowledge That Leads to Everlasting Life*. A special effort will be made to start home Bible studies. ■ Since the Gilead graduation will be held on Saturday, March 10, 2001, no tours will be conducted that day at the Society's facilities at Brooklyn, Patterson, and Wallkill, New York. Any who have planned to visit on that Saturday should reschedule their visit to another convenient time. No congregation literature requests will be processed for shipment or for pickup that day. ■ Congregations should begin requesting bound volumes of *The Watchtower* and *Awake!* for 2000 with their December literature re-

quest. The bound volumes will be available in Chinese, Croatian, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, and Spanish. Until the bound volumes are available and shipments are made, these will appear as "Pending" on congregation packing lists. Bound volumes are special-request items.

■ Memorial invitations for 2001 in the primary language of each congregation have been included with the annual shipment of forms. If other languages are spoken in your territory and you would like a supply of invitations in those languages, these should be requested immediately on a Literature Request Form (S-14). Memorial invitations are available in Albanian, Arabic, Armenian, Cambodian, Chinese, Chinese (Simplified), Croatian, Dutch, East Armenian, English, French, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, Iloko, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Laotian, Macedonian, Papiamentto, Persian, Polish, Portuguese, Punjabi, Romanian, Russian, Samoan, Serbian, Spanish, Tagalog, Turkish, and Vietnamese. Please request only those languages needed for your territory.

Learning From the Video *The Bible—Accurate History, Reliable Prophecy*

After watching this video, can you answer these questions? (1) Who is the Source of the Bible's reliable information? (Dan. 2:28) (2) How does the Bible paint an accurate picture of ancient Egypt, and how did the prophecy recorded at Isaiah 19: 3, 4 come true? (3) How has archaeology confirmed the Bible's portrayal of the Assyrians, their kings, and Assyria's end? (Nah. 3:1, 7, 13) (4) What prophecies involving Babylon have proved reliable? (5) What impact did Medo-Persia have on God's people? (6) How was Daniel 8: 5, 8 fulfilled, and how far in advance was this foretold? (7) How did Jesus prove to be the true Messiah? (8) Which modern political powers fulfill prophecies found at Revelation 13:11 and 17: 11? (9) What scenes in the video prove the truthfulness of Ecclesiastes 8:9? (10) How has this presentation strengthened your belief in the Bible's promises for the future? (11) How can you use this tool to convince others that the Bible is of divine origin?

The Theocratic Ministry School for 2001

¹ There are ample Scriptural reasons why all of us should participate as fully as possible in the Theocratic Ministry School.—Prov. 15:23; Matt. 28: 19, 20; Acts 15:32; 1 Tim. 4:12, 13; 2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Pet. 3:15.

² A program for weekly Bible reading has long been a feature of the school. It amounts to reading about one page of the Bible each day. Beginning this year, a Bible reading is also assigned for each written review week. The supplemental Bible reading, which was scheduled for the past three years, has

been completed. But if you wish to read more of the Bible than is scheduled, you may make up your own reading program.

³ Assignment No. 2 trains brothers for "public reading" of God's Word. (1 Tim. 4:13) When you have a reading assignment, practice it aloud again and again. You might use the Society's audiocassette recordings of the Bible to improve your pronunciation, modulation, and other aspects of good reading.

⁴ Assignments No. 3 and No. 4 are based on the *Reasoning*

book, which was prepared for use in the field ministry. If the assigned material is more than you can consider within the allotted time, select only what will be most practical for your congregation territory. Any setting that is appropriate for your territory may be used.

⁵ Make every reasonable effort to fulfill all your assignments in the school. Take the time to prepare well, and speak from your heart. You will be a source of encouragement to the congregation, and you will benefit personally by participating wholeheartedly in the Theocratic Ministry School during 2001.

Peer Pressure and Your Privilege to Preach

¹ Peer pressure is a powerful influence—for good or for bad. Fellow servants of Jehovah exert a positive influence that incites us to fine Christian works. (Heb. 10:24) However, non-Witness family members, workmates, schoolmates, neighbors, or other acquaintances can put pressure on us to follow a course that is contrary to Christian principles. They may speak “slightingly of [our] good conduct in connection with Christ.” (1 Pet. 3:16) How can we maintain our determination to keep preaching despite negative peer pressure that we may encounter?

² **Family Members:** At times, a husband and father who is not one of Jehovah’s Witnesses may not want his wife and children to share in the public ministry. This was the situation in a household in Mexico. A man’s wife and seven children came into the truth. At first he was opposed because he did not want his family to preach and offer Bible literature from house to house. He felt that this was beneath their dignity. His wife and children, however, stood firm in their decision to serve Jehovah and to have a regular share in the ministry. In time, the man began to see the value of accepting God’s arrangement for the preaching work, and he too dedicated himself to Jehovah. It took him 15 years to accept the truth, but would he have ever done so had his family not persevered in their privilege to preach?—Luke 1:74; 1 Cor. 7:16.

³ **Workmates:** Your efforts to witness to workmates may not be well received by some. One sister related that when a discussion about the end of the world arose in the office, she was ridiculed because she suggested that they read Matthew chapter 24. However, a few days later, one of her workmates told her that she had read the chapter and was impressed. A publication was placed, and arrangements were made for a Bible study with her and her husband. The first study lasted until two o’clock in the morning. Following the third study, they started attending meetings, and soon thereafter they gave up the use of tobacco and began sharing in the ministry. Would this have happened if our sister had made no effort to share her hope with others?

⁴ **Schoolmates:** It is not unusual for Witness youths to experience peer pressure at school and to be afraid that other youths will belittle them for sharing in the preaching work. One Christian teenager in the United States said: “I had a fear of witnessing to other young people because I was afraid of being made fun of.” So she avoided opportunities to witness to her peers at school and in the territory. How can you develop the strength to stand up to peer pressure? Trust in Jehovah, seeking his smile of approval. (Prov. 29:25) Take pride in your ability to use the Word of God in your ministry. (2 Tim. 2:15) The youth just quoted began pray-

ing to Jehovah, asking him to help her cultivate the desire to talk to her schoolmates. She began witnessing informally at school, had good results, and was soon talking to everyone she knew. She concluded: “Those kids need and want a hope for the future, and Jehovah is using us to help them.”

⁵ **Neighbors:** We may have neighbors or other acquaintances who show some irritation toward us because of who we are and what we stand for. If you fear what they think, ask yourself: ‘Do they know the truth that leads to everlasting life? What can I do to reach their hearts?’ A circuit overseer observed that good results are achieved when witnessing to neighbors in measured doses. Beseech Jehovah for the needed strength and wisdom to continue seeking out honesthearted ones.—Phil. 4:13.

⁶ Our yielding to negative peer pressure may please opposers, but would doing so be in their best interests—or ours? Jesus was opposed by people in his own community. He even endured sharp remarks by his half brothers. But he knew that he could help them only by remaining true to the course God had set for him. Thus, Jesus “endured such contrary talk by sinners against their own interests.” (Heb. 12:2, 3) We must do the same. Be determined to make the most of your privilege to preach the Kingdom message. By doing so, “you will save both yourself and those who listen to you.”—1 Tim. 4:16.